Murray's

HAND-BOOK

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, RUTLAND.

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HANDBOOK FOR TRAVELLERS

IN

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

AND

RUTLAND.

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HANDBOOK FOR TRAVELLERS

IN

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

AND

RUTLAND.

WITH MAP.

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PREFACE.

THE present Handbook for Northamptonshire and Rutland has been drawn up after many visits to both counties. The general arrangement is the same which has been followed in other volumes of the English series.

It would be impossible to mention in this place all those from whom the Editor has received valuable assistance. But his thanks are especially due to Sir Henry Dryden, of Canons Ashby; to the Venerable Lord Alwyne Compton; to the Rev. Nicholas Lightfoot, Rector of Islip; the Rev. Henry Ward, Rector of St. Peter's, Aldwinckle; the Rev. H. J. Bigge; the Rev. F. Curgenven, Rector of Byfield; and to Samuel Sharp, Esq., of Dallington Hall.

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SECTION I.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

INTRODUCTION.

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Extent and General Character.

§ I. The county of Northampton, the "midmost of the midlands," extends in a wedge-like form, three times as long as it is broad, for seventy miles from N.E. to S.W.; from Crowland Bridge, where it joins Lincolnshire, to Aynho, where it has Oxfordshire for a neighbour. The breadth varies, but is nowhere greater than twenty-six miles. "It bordereth," says Fuller, "on more counties than any other in England, being nine in number. . . . It is as fruitful and populous as any in England, insomuch that sixteen several towns, with their churches, have at one view been discovered therein, by my eyes (other men have discovered two-and-thirty), which I confess none of the best; and God grant that those who are sharper sighted may hereafter never see fewer. Sure I am that there is as little waste ground in this as in any county in England (no mosses, mears, fells, heaths (Whitering but a beauty spot), which elsewhere fill so many shires with much emptiness); Northamptonshire being an apple, without core to be cut out, or rind to be pared away."—*Worthies.* What Fuller wrote of Northamptonshire in the middle of the seventeenth century is still true, or rather has become more true. There is little unproductive land; the agriculture of the county is uniformly good; and the population is considerable for the area. The county contains 629,912 statute acres, of which 580,000 are arable and pasture. The population in 1871 was 243,891, (122,859 males, 123,032 females.) (The census of 1801 showed a popu-

lation of 131,525.) Those parts of Northamptonshire not included in the arable or pasture lands, represent ancient forest or modern plantation.

§ II. The boundaries of the county appear to be somewhat arbitrary, although the Cherwell in the S.W., the Welland for a considerable distance on the N.W., the Ouse and the Towe in the extreme S.E. corner, and the Nen between Fotheringhay and Peterborough, become the limits of the shire. This arbitrary character of the boundaries is due partly to the want of marked natural features, and in a greater degree, as is probable, to the circumstances under which the shire was first formed (see *post, History*). The rivers of Northamptonshire are all "natives." "Independent of all other counties, it distributes its own streams in every direction, from the two great watersheds, one lying between Brackley and Banbury, whence flow the Cherwell, the Ouse, and the Leam; while from Naseby height the Nen, the Welland, and the Avon flow in opposite directions into the Wash and the Bristol Channel."—*James*, 'Hist. and Antiq. of Northants.' The principal watersheds of central England thus fall within the boundaries of Northamptonshire; and the western heights of the county overlook the broad central plain of the midlands. This western and south-western border is broken, varied, and picturesque, although the hills nowhere rise for more than 700 or 800 feet above the sea. (Naseby is 697 ft.; Arbury Hill, near the source of the Leam, is 804 ft.) But the eastern and central parts of Northamptonshire are certainly not picturesque. Although the ground is not level, its undulations are monotonous, and, "aggravated by the ever recurring ridge and furrow, are not relieved by much beauty of timber." These are Horace Walpole's "dumpling hills of Northamptonshire." At the same time there are occasional scenes of considerable beauty, especially where the trees of some great park, such as that of Althorp or that of Castle Ashby, form a rich and forest-like foreground to the open country which spreads beyond, and into a far distance.

Geology.

§ III. The outlines of Northamptonshire scenery, and the form of ground throughout the county, result, of course, from its geological character. The whole of the county lies within the great belt of *Jurassic* (oolitic and liassic) formations which extends across England from the coast of Dorsetshire to the Humber, and thence to the north coast of Yorkshire. This belt is nowhere characterised by very lofty hills; but it is by no means destitute of picturesque scenery, and is nowhere altogether level, although many portions of it are low, and unmarked by any special features. In Northamptonshire it rises into high table-land at Naseby, and along the border of Warwickshire; a table-land which, as has already been said, forms the great watershed of central England. The Jurassic belt (which, in geological series, lies between the Trias, or New Red (below), and the Weald clay and Cretaceous deposits (above),

consists in Northamptonshire of the *Lias*, which is the great basal formation, with a thickness of about 850 feet (Lower Lias 650 ft., Middle Lias or Marlstone, 30 ft., Upper Lias from 150 to 200 ft.), and the *Oolite*, divided into Inferior and Great Oolite. The *Inferior Oolite*, which rests on the Upper Lias, contains, first, the beds of Northampton sand, in which is the Ironstone rock, and the so-called "Lower Estuarine" series; and then beds of Lincolnshire Limestone (so called because traversing Rutland, and extending into Lincolnshire, it there attains its greatest thickness), and Collyweston slate. The *Great Oolite* contains the Upper Estuarine series, Great Oolite limestones, and Great Oolite clays. The Lias and Oolite thus represent the whole range of secondary formations in the county. But the high ground is "frequently capped with a thick bed of *Boulder clay* and *Glacial gravels*, containing fragments from nearly the whole series of Primary and Secondary rocks, Liassic, Kimeridge clay, and Oxford clay fossils being frequently found beautifully preserved in masses of septaria. The *valley gravels* abound with large tusks and teeth of *Elephas antiquus*, *E. primigenius*, and an *Elephas* of an intermediate species; and teeth of *Rhinocerus tichorinus*, bones of *Hippopotamus major*, teeth of *Equus caballus* and *E. fossilis*, the core of a horn and part of a frontal bone of *Bison priscus*, and a head of *Bos primigenius* have also been found. The peaty fluviatile bed above the gravel contains at its base numerous remains of the aboriginal small ox, *Bos longifrons*, red deer, horse, wild boar, with human skulls, &c."—*S. Sharp.*

§ IV. The *Lias*, which forms the foundation of the whole district, is exposed in the valleys. In the N.W. portion of the county the *Lower Lias* prevails. But the Liassic formations are nowhere so important as the Oolitic, in the beds of which occur the mineral wealth—ironstone, building-stone, and slate—of Northamptonshire.

The clay of the *Upper Lias* is much worked for brick-making, but the product is not of very high value. "This clay abounds with palæontological remains, such as those of large *Ichthyosauri* and *Teleosauri*, *Ammonites* and *Belemnites*, *Gryphæa*, *Astræa*, and other bivalves. It has also yielded an unique crustacean, a clawless lobster (like a large prawn), *Peneus Sharpii*."—*S. S.* The *Middle Lias* is an abundant water-bearing formation, and from this, by a well 168 ft. deep, the Water Company of Northampton furnishes to the town a copious supply of pure and not hard water. It is characterised by the presence of *Rhynchonella tetraedra*, very large *Pecten æquivalvis*, &c."—*Id.*

The lowest important series of the *Oolitic* beds is that of the Northamptonshire sand, in two divisions. The aggregate thickness is about 80 feet; and it is the lower division which yields the iron ore, which has been worked from about the year 1850, for which the county has now become famous. (See Wellingborough, Rte. 2; and Rte. 14, Thrapston to Kettering.) The ironstone occurs in its greatest thickness in the neighbourhood of Northampton. It is quarried largely at Duston, Blisworth, Gayton, and Stow-Nine-Churches to the W. of Northampton; and at Cogenhoe, Wellingborough, Finedon, Woodford, Cranford, Glen-

don, and other places E. and N.E. of Northampton. It ranges in this section as far as Stamford, where it is quarried on the estate of the Marquis of Exeter. Throughout the county about 20,000 tons of the ore are excavated weekly, yielding nearly on an average 40 per cent. of pig iron. The ironstone, it should be said, is of the same character as that of the Cleveland and Middlesborough district in Yorkshire; where it is found, not in the Oolitic series, but in the marlstone of the Middle Lias. Both formations, however, belong to the same great Jurassic belt. It is to be noted that, although it is certain that the ironstone of both Yorkshire and Northamptonshire had been recognised by the Romans, and had been worked by them, and afterwards during much of the mediæval period, it nevertheless lay neglected in both counties from the middle of the fifteenth century, and its extent and value were altogether unknown until about the year 1850, when there was a simultaneous re-discovery of its importance. In Northamptonshire the opening of the mines, or quarries, as they should rather be called, is due to the energy of the late S. H. Blackwell, of Dudley. He was undoubtedly the first person who made use of the ore. Much building-stone, easily worked and richly coloured, is also raised from the beds of this lower division. "They are highly fossiliferous, and have yielded many species not known in other districts; among these are—a starfish, *Stellaster Sharpii*, and the bivalves *Lima Sharpiana*, *L. Dustonensis*, *L. Deltoida*, *L. Rodburgensis*, and a large *Lima* allied to *L. Grandis*. There have also been found *Trigonia Sharpiana*, a tooth and pelvic bone of *Megalosaurus*, and a dorsal scale of an undescribed species of *Teleosaurus*."—*S. S.*

The upper division of the Northampton sand consists of a nearly white siliceous sand, frequently intercalated with clay; sometimes sufficiently indurated to constitute a good building-stone. This is the "Lower Estuarine" series, and, "as indicated by the presence of plant-remains, much drifted wood, certain bivalve and univalve fossils, and by the frequent occurrence of ripple-marked surfaces, it had partly an estuarine and partly a littoral origin."

Above the Northampton sands there occurs, at Collyweston and Easton (see Rte. 10), a slaty bed, which is largely used in the district,—the slate having formed, from an early period, the prevalent roofing material of the locality. (For the distinctive fossils found in these slate-beds, see Rte. 10.) Above, again, are the so-called Lincolnshire limestones, the characteristic stone of the northern division of the county north of the river Nen. "The lower beds are for the most part marly and soft, and occasionally supply a pure, cream-white stone, well adapted and much used for interior domestic work, and for carved work in churches. Higher beds yield good rough durable building-stone, and are traversed by a very shelly and partially crystalline bed, the stone of which, taking a good polish, has been termed the 'Stamford marble,' and is very ornamental for chimney-pieces. The whole of these beds are quarried extensively for lime-burning, the lime produced being of excellent quality."—*S. S.* The beds above these are those of the *Ketton freestone* and the *Barnack rag*. Both of these are famous

building-stones, well known and used from a very remote period. (For *Ketton*, which is just across the border of the county, see *Rutland*, Rte. 1.) The Ketton stone is not very fossiliferous, but has yielded the characteristic forms—*Terebratula fimbria*, *Rhynconella spinosa*, *R. Crossii*, *Pholadomya fidicula*, *P. Zietenii*, *Trigonia hemisphœrica*, *Pterocera Bentleyi*, *Natica Leckhamptonensis*, *Cidaris Fowleri*, *C. Wrightii*, numerous fine corals, *Aroides Stutterdi*, and other plants. The *Barnack rag* (see Rte. 3) is very shelly, and some beds seem to be composed almost entirely of shells agglutinated together by a calcareous cement. The quarries at Barnack have been exhausted for nearly four centuries, and the stone is not worked elsewhere.

§ V. The lowest beds of the *Great Oolite* are ferruginous and argillaceous, and are rich in fossils. The clays have yielded remains of a gigantic crocodilian saurian, the *Cetiosaurus*. Above come limestone beds, the stone from one of which, at Alwalton, near Peterborough, takes a good polish. "The detached slender columns of the beautiful Early English west front of Peterborough cathedral were composed of this marble; but, they having become decomposed from atmospheric action, another material has been substituted." From a bed of this Great Oolite limestone at Blisworth two examples have been obtained of a fish not found elsewhere—*Pholidophorus Flesheri*. The bed at Kingsthorpe has yielded a fine cone of a pandanaceous plant, allied to the screw-pines of Norfolk Island; and in the neighbourhood of Oundle has been found an elegant little star-fish, having five attenuated and tortuous rays, which has been named *Ophiurella Griesbachii*. The uppermost beds of the Great Oolite are Clay, Forest Marble, Cornbrash, and, over all, the Oxford Clay, yielding numerous ammonites, belemnites, large oysters, saurians (including the huge Pliosaurus), and masses of wood converted into jet.

The limestone of the Great Oolite occurs in the middle of the county and in the southern division, and generally caps the highlands. "The Forest Marble, as a hard rock, only occurs in the neighbourhood of Peterborough, and over a very limited area. The Cornbrash crops out from under the Oxford Clay, on the southern escarpment of the Nen valley; ranging in from Bedfordshire at a point upon the boundary of the county near Rushden; and extends, by Oundle, nearly to Peterborough. In like manner, it crops out, north of the Nen, near Sudborough, extending by Lowick to the Aldwinckles, and reappearing upon many escarpments near Oundle. It also caps the high grounds north of the Addingtons and Woodford, at Islip, at Bulwick, at Upton (near Castor); occurs at a lower level at Helpstone, and is the surface rock over a large area to the north and north-west of Peterborough. The Oxford clay overlies and is almost conterminous with the Cornbrash, where the latter crops out upon the southern escarpment of the Nen valley, and it spreads out over a considerable area of elevated land far into Bedfordshire. Considerable patches of it also occur in the same elevated position to the north of the Aldwinckles, and to the north and west of Oundle; while in the neighbourhood of Peterborough

it occupies only the low grounds, and spreads out over the great level of the Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire fens."—*S. S.*

[The passages within inverted commas, signed S. S., are from a 'Sketch of the Geology of Northamptonshire, by Samuel Sharp, Esq., F.S.A., F.G.S.,' printed in the third volume of the 'Proceedings of the Geologists' Association.' No one is better acquainted than Mr. Sharp with the geology of the county; and for the present notice the Editor is almost entirely indebted to him.]

History.

§ VI. Northamptonshire is not in itself, nor does it form a part of, one of those divisions of England which, from natural position, and from a consequent course of events, have a marked history of their own. Such districts are Devon and Cornwall, representing the British kingdom of Damnonia; the isolated and strongly Teutonic counties of Norfolk and Suffolk; and perhaps the whole of ancient Northumbria. The shire of Northampton is an artificial division, and the events which have taken place in it might almost as well have happened in any other part of England. Those events, however, are in many ways noticeable; and the county forms part of a district the old language of which has influenced, in a very remarkable manner, the development of modern English.

The whole of what is now Northamptonshire seems to have been, in the British period, although occupied by the Coritani, under the control of the Iceni, the most powerful tribe of Eastern Britain. Of this primitive time, however, there are few existing traces: (see § XII., *Antiquities*). Under the Romans, great portions of the county, and especially the valley of the Nen, seem to have been well populated. The whole of that valley, even when apart from the lines of ancient roads, contains Roman relics—foundations of villas, speculatory mounds, and castra. The river itself seems to have served as a highway; and at Castor, near Peterborough, there was, besides a large station (on the line of the Ermyn Street), a very extensive pottery, carried on over the whole surrounding country. (See Rte. 2.) The Castor "ware" was in request throughout the greater part of Roman Britain. Two great roads, either formed or adopted by the Romans, the Watling Street and the Ermyn Street, crossed what is now Northamptonshire; and, besides that at Castor, there were at least three important stations, at Irchester (Rte. 2), Towcester (Rte. 5), and Lilbourne (Rte. 13.) (For these Romain remains, see § XII., *Antiquities.*)

§ VII. With the Teutonic conquest of this part of Britain our interest greatly increases. What is now known as Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, and Huntingdonshire, and probably some parts of neighbouring counties (it is impossible to trace the boundaries with certainty) was occupied by the Middle Angles, whose settlement was one of those out of which the Mercian kingdom was created by Penda and his immediate predecessors. (*Stubbs*, 'Const. Hist.,' i. 109.) How-

ever ancient may be the name scir or shire, it was not applied to any one of the five regions (Lindsey, Hwiccia, Mercia proper, Middle Anglia, and South Anglia) from which Mercia was formed. The whole of Middle Anglia was, in the ninth century, overrun by the Danes, and was more or less brought under their control. The treaty of Alfred and Guthrum (A.D. 878) limited the extent of the Danish occupation southward; "upon the Thames, along the Lea to its source, then right to Bedford, and then upon the Ouse to Watling Street." The Watling Street crosses Northamptonshire in a direct line from Stony Stratford to Rugby; so that by far the greater portion of the county remained within Danish territory—the Denalagu, or Danelagh. But afterwards Edward the Elder (901–965) and his sister, Æthelflæd, the "Lady of Mercia," after many struggles, either expelled the Danes from Middle Anglian territory, or compelled them to submit themselves to their authority. It was apparently after this reconquest that the division of this part of England into shires took place. The name is not before found applied to any portion of Middle Anglia. The "province" (if it is to be so called) had been dependent ecclesiastically, first on Leicester (one of Archbishop Theodore's subdivisions—the see existed, with a short interval, from A.D. 680 to 869), and afterwards on Dorchester in Oxfordshire, to which place the Leicester see was removed. Hence, when the see was again removed, after the Conquest, from Dorchester to Lincoln, the shires which had formed Middle Anglia became dependent on that diocese, the most extensive and unwieldy in England.

It is impossible to trace the causes which led to the defining of the Middle Anglian shires within their present boundaries. They are for the most part unmarked by any natural necessity; except where the course of a river, as that of the Welland on the N.W. of Northamptonshire, and the Ouse for a very brief space on the S. of the same county, has been occasionally followed. The boundaries of all these shires are very irregular; perhaps because, in determining them, it may have been necessary to follow the outlines of certain properties or settlements. This was apparently the reason why the great monastic house of Peterborough, which had from a very early period much land in the valley of the Nen, was included in Northamptonshire. Each of the Middle Anglian shires is grouped round its capital, as round an acknowledged and convenient centre, and each takes its name from this capital. Thus Northampton, or "Hampton" as it is called in the Saxon Chronicle, gives its name to the county gathered round it, the "ham," or "home" town, being distinguished as *North*-hampton in opposition to *South*-hampton, the "port" of Wessex which gave its name to Hampshire. The difference, in short, between these Middle Anglian and Mercian counties and those of Wessex is that the latter "retain to this day the names and the boundaries of the principalities founded by the first successors of Cerdic. . . . The local divisions of Wessex were not made, but grew." Those of Mercia, on the other hand, show every indication of having been artificially mapped out; a process which, in all probability, took place after the reconquest from the Danes, effected by Edward the Elder.

§ VIII. Although the greater part of Northamptonshire was, as we have seen, within the Danelagh, the traces of Danish settlement in the county are not numerous. The termination in "by" occurs, but is by no means frequent, except towards the point at which Watling Street passes out of the county, where a little group of "bys" occurs, with Rugby (across the Warwickshire border) as the principal. Leicester was indeed for a time one of the five Danish "boroughs," but it would seem that Danish influence in this part of England was not very permanent or very powerful. At any rate, it did not greatly affect the language. The "Anglian" dialect of these shires has fulfilled a remarkable destiny. It was the form of Anglo-Saxon (the word is here used as embracing all the dialects of England, from Wessex to Northumbria) speech which was at last to set the standard of the English tongue. "The English of books and of modern speech is not the tongue of Northumberland; it is not the tongue of Wessex; it is the tongue of those eastern shires of Mercia which border on East Anglia."—*E. A. F.* When at last, two centuries and a half after the Norman Conquest, the English language won back its own place, it was the dialect of the Middle Angles which became to England "what Castilian is to Spain, what Tuscan is to Italy, what the speech of Touraine is to France."

"Without pretending to fix the geographical limit very exactly, there can be no doubt that the English language, in the form which has been classical ever since the fourteenth century, is the language of the shires bordering on the great monastic region of the Fenland, the tongue of Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire, Rutland and Holland. The writer who first gave currency to the dialect was Robert Manning of Bourne, in the later days of Edward the First. Under the great writers of the fourteenth century it grew and prospered, and it was the form of the language which at the end of that century, finally displaced French as the polite and literary speech of England. Classical English is neither northern nor southern but midland; and of midland it is eastern and not western. Anyone may convince himself of this who has learned enough of the dialects of England to know how much nearer the tongue of a Northamptonshire peasant comes to the English of books than the tongue of a peasant either of Yorkshire or of Somerset. I suspect that, if the three were brought together, the true test of a standard dialect would show itself; the Northumbrian and the West Saxon would have some ado to understand one another; the Mercian would be easily understood by both. From the eleventh to the fourteenth century all forms of English south of the Tweed were mere popular dialects in the presence of a dominant foreign tongue. Since the fourteenth century the tongues of the North and the South have sunk into the still lower position of popular dialects in the presence of a dominant form of the same tongue. The ancient Saxon tongue, which in the fourteenth century was still the speech of written Kentish prose, has long passed out of written use, to become once more in our own day the written speech of Dorset rimes. The tongue of Cerdic, Ine, and Ælfred, has been step by step beaten back westward till it

survives only in the lands which, in days later than those of Ælfred, were still looked on as the *Wealhcyn*, the march of the conquered Britain."—*E. A. Freeman*, 'Norman Conquest,' v. pp. 542–544.

Many words which are elsewhere extinct linger in the common speech of Northamptonshire (see *Miss Baker's* 'Glossary of Northamptonshire Words and Phrases,' 2 vols., 1854), but the statement of Fuller that "the language of the common people is generally the best of any shire in England" is still true. Fuller (see Rte. 2, Aldwinckle St. Peter's) was a native of the county, and he adds to this statement (*Worthies*, Northants.)—"A proof whereof, when a boy, I received from a hand-labouring man herein, which hath since convinced my judgment. 'We speak, I believe' (said he), 'as good English as any shire in England; because, though in the singing Psalms some words are used, to make the meeter, unknown to us; yet the last translation of the Bible, which no doubt was done by those learned men in the best English, agreeth perfectly with the common speech of the country.'"

§ IX. After the Conquest, the thick forest with which so much of the county was at that time covered, drew the special attention of Norman and Angevine kings to Northamptonshire. "Nowhere," says Sir Francis Palgrave, "was a king of England so much a king as within the forest boundary,"—where the precinct was inaccessible to the ordinary course of justice. The great forest of Rockingham, a continuation of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire woodlands, extended, it is said, from the immediate neighbourhood of Northampton to the north-western verge of the county; and the forests of Wittlebury and of Salcey covered the south-eastern district. Accordingly, the castles of Northampton (Rte. 1) and of Rockingham (Rte. 11), both raised immediately after the Conquest, were much frequented by the Red King and his successors, and both have been the scenes of important historical events. At Rockingham, in 1094, took place the famous scene between Anselm and William Rufus (see Rte. 11. Palgrave, 'Normandy and England,' iv. 188, connects "glowing furnaces" (for iron), and "the peculiarly barbarous class of the forgemen" with the immediate neighbourhood of Rockingham—this is in accordance with the local tradition). At Northampton occurred one of the most remarkable events in the history of Becket—that scene in the "King's Hall" of the castle, which was followed by the flight of the archbishop from England. Notices of the various occurrences at Northampton, and of the Parliaments which have been held there, will be found in Rte. 1. It cannot, however, be said that these were at all influenced by any circumstances peculiar to this part of England, unless it be that the line of the Watling Street, and of one important road which passed northward (that by which the body of Queen Eleanor was brought to Northampton—see Rte. 1, *Northampton*, and Rte. 10, *Geddington*), made Northampton a convenient gathering place, and a sort of centre.

§ X. The later history of Northamptonshire is marked, during the Elizabethan period, by the rise, or at least by the development, of three

great houses,—that of the Cecils at Burghley (Rte. 3); that of the Spencers at Althorp (Rte. 7), and that of the Comptons at Castle Ashby (Rte. 2). This group of houses (to which perhaps should be added Apethorp, Rte. 2, founded by Sir Walter Mildmay, Elizabeth's Chancellor of the Exchequer, who reproduced the quiet courts of his own dwelling in his college of Emmanuel, at Cambridge), the importance of which has not only been retained, but has steadily increased to our own day, is still the chief glory of Northamptonshire; and indeed, as the early history of the county gathers round the royal castles, so the later more or less connects itself with the great Elizabethan mansions, or with others which have either become less important as the centuries have passed over them, or which have altogether fallen to ruin. Boughton (Rte. 10), the chief residence of the Dukes of Montagu, and Milton (Rte. 2), the home of Sir William Fitzwilliam, attached to the household of Wolsey, belong to the former division. In the latter must be placed Kirby (Rte. 10), and Holdenby (Rte. 7), both the creations of Sir Christopher Hatton, Elizabeth's Lord Keeper. Kirby is quite in ruins. Holdenby has been in part restored, but since 1860. Other houses of earlier date are Deene, the seat of the Brudenells since 1514 (Rte. 10), and (especially to be noted) Drayton (Rte. 2), where portions are at least as old as the reign of Edward III. The castle of Fotheringhay (Rte. 2) is now represented only by the great keep mound and a trench or two. In its hall took place (Feb. 8, 1586–7) the execution of Queen Mary of Scotland, an event which, however, important, is one of those which must be noted as having "occurred in Northamptonshire," rather than as connected with the true history of the county.

§ XI. The outbreak of the Civil War brought Northamptonshire again into prominence, owing, for the most part, to the central position of the county. The first great fight of the war took place at Edgehill (Rte. 5), in Warwickshire, but not far beyond the border of Northants, on the 23rd of October, 1642. The last great fight was that at Naseby (Rte. 8) on the highest ground in the county, June 14th, 1645. These battles are fully described under the divisions to which they belong. Many skirmishes occurred in different parts of the county before peace was entirely restored, the most noticeable of which was perhaps that in which Cromwell's general, Lambert, was taken (see *Daventry*, Rte. 4). It was at Holdenby (Rte. 7) that Charles I. passed into the hands of Cornet Joyce.

William III. visited the second Earl of Sunderland at *Althorp* in 1695 (Rte. 7); and the great houses of Northamptonshire have had their due succession of royal guests. But such visits are scarcely history; and no event of real historical importance has taken place within the limits of the county since the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Antiquities.

§ XII. Northamptonshire is one of the most attractive counties in

England for the antiquary whose special studies are ecclesiastical and domestic architecture. In primæval remains, and in those of the British and Roman periods, it is not rich; but the whole range of mediæval architecture, from early forms of Romanesque to the latest Perpendicular, is better illustrated in no other part of England. The domestic buildings of the county belong chiefly to the Tudor period; but many of them are of very high interest.

Primæval and *British* antiquities are confined to a few camps and earthworks, the date of which it is impossible to determine, and some of which may have been turned to account during the Roman period. Of these the most important are Borough Hill, near Daventry (Rte. 4) —a British stronghold certainly Romanised. Arbury Hill, near Staverton (Rte. 4). Castle Dykes, near Farthingstone (Rte. 5), unless this should rather be considered as the site of a Saxon fortified mansion; and British earthworks at East Farndon (Rte. 8).

Of *Roman* remains we have the camps or stations of Irchester (Rte. 2); Castor, or Durobrivæ (Rte. 2); the Roman portion of Borough Hill, or Beneventa (Rte. 4); Towcester, or Lactodorum (Rte. 5), where, however, traces of Roman work have nearly vanished; Blackgrounds, near Chipping Warden (Rte. 5), the probable site of Brinavis; and Lilbourne, or Tripontium (Rte. 13). Of these, Irchester and Castor are the most distinct and important. There are still some remains of the great Roman pottery, which extended throughout the neighbourhood of Castor (Rte. 2). Foundations of Roman villas have been found in different parts of the county, as at Duston, near Northampton (Rte. 1), and at Apethorpe (Rte. 2). The mound of Clifford Hill on the Nen (Rte. 2) is probably Roman.

Mediæval Period. The true archæological riches of Northamptonshire belong to the centuries between A.D. 900 and A.D. 1500. No English county contains more remarkable examples of Romanesque architecture in its earlier forms; and no county is more distinguished by the extreme excellence and variety of its ecclesiastical architecture, not in one period alone, but in all, from the development of Early English to the latest Perpendicular. Northamptonshire has been called a land of "Squires and Spires;" and it is undoubtedly pre-eminent in noble examples of the latter. It is to be noted that a very marked originality characterizes the church architecture of the county, and especially that of the Early English and Decorated periods. The great rules and principles of mediæval architecture are nowhere disregarded; but they are frequently applied, and the subordinate decorations are used, in a manner displaying great independence on the part of the architect. The excellent building-stone of the district (see Barnack, Rte. 3; *Ketton*, Rutland, Rte. 1; and ante, *Geology*) was a strong inducement to architectural display; and Barnack stone was conveyed easily into the heart of the county by the aid of the river Nen. The great and wealthy Abbey of Peterborough set the example

of church building. Its possessions were scattered over the county but chiefly throughout the Nen valley; and it is there accordingly, that we find the noblest and most costly churches. The ease of water-carriage seems to have been as great an incentive to building here as in the Marshland and along the north coast of Norfolk. As we pass out of the Northamptonshire district, however—either eastward, into Cambridgeshire and Norfolk; or northward, into Lincolnshire—we encounter distinct schools of builders; and the Marshland churches and those of the Lincolnshire Holland are marked by characteristics very different from those of the Nen valley. The churches of even the neighbouring and closely-connected Rutland have peculiarities which are not those of Northamptonshire. The main source of these differences is no doubt to be sought in the general conditions of building throughout the mediæval period. But whether an architect was distinctly recognized, or whether the work was undertaken by independent bodies of masons, local causes were always in operation, which modified the design, and which influenced the main architectural character of the district. How far Peterborough was thus the building centre of Northamptonshire has yet to be clearly ascertained.

§ XIII. The special features of each church are described in the several routes. The churches to which the antiquary should give most attention are—

(1). *Saxon.*—(All the examples are of the highest importance). *Earl's Barton (Rte. 2); Wittering (Rte. 2); *Brigstock (Rte. 2); *Barnack tower (Rte. 3); Stowe-Nine-Churches, perhaps the tower (Rte. 4); *Brixworth (Rte. 8).

(2). *Norman.*—*St. Peter's, Northampton (Rte. 1); *S. Sepulchre's, Northampton (with later nave) (Rte. 1); Castle Ashby (portions) (Rte. 2); *Polebrook (late, with E. Eng. portions), (Rte. 2); Tansor (with E. Eng.) (Rte. 2); *Castor, very fine late Norman enriched tower (Rte. 2); *Peterborough, the great abbey church, now the cathedral. All is Norman of different dates, except the west front and eastern building (Rte. 2); King's Sutton (portions, Rte. 5); Spratton (Transition, with additions, Rte. 8); *Barton Seagrave (Rte. 9).

(3). *Early English.*—St. Giles', Northampton (parts, Rte. 1); Strixton (small, but very good, Rte. 2); *Higham Ferrers (much E. Eng., especially the tower and W. entrance, Rte. 2); Irthlingborough (parts, Rte. 2); Sudborough (parts, Rte. 2); Aldwinckle All Saints' (parts, Rte. 2); Aldwinckle St. Peter's (nave, Rte. 2); *Oundle (arcade, Rte. 2); *Warrington (throughout E. Eng., with E. Eng. wooden groining of nave, Rte. 2); *Peterborough (West front of cathedral, Rte. 2); *Barnack (body of church, very fine S. porch, Rte. 3); *Stamford, St. Mary's, E. Eng. tower. Stamford, *All Saints (remarkable external wall arcade, Rte. 2); Floore (Rte. 4); Towcester (nave arcade, Rte. 5); Morton Pinkeney (parts, Rte. 5); Canons Ashby (parts, Rte. 5);

Warkworth (parts, Rte. 5); Brackley, St. Peter's (tower, Rte. 6); Great Brington (parts, Rte. 7); Hannington, remarkable for single nave arcade (Rte. 9); *Raunds, very fine tower and spire (Rte. 15); *Stanwick, remarkable octagonal tower of E. Eng. date, on which is a Dec. spire (Rte. 15).

(4). *Decorated.*—Great Billing (Rte. 2); *Yardley Hastings (Rte. 2); *Easton Maudit (Rte. 2); Wellingborough (parts, Rte. 2); *Irchester, spire fine late Dec (Rte. 2); *Higham Ferrers (parts, Rte. 2); *Rushden (parts, including tower and spire, but the latter has Perp. insertions, Rte. 2); Islip (parts, Rte. 2); *Tichmarsh (very fine W. tower, Rte. 2); *Aldwinckle St. Peter's (very graceful late Dec. tower and spire, Rte. 2); Cotterstock (Rte. 2); Overton Longueville (Rte. 2); *Northborough (church and manor-house, Rte. 3); Stowe-Nine-Churches (body of church, Rte. 4); Watford (nave, Rte. 4); Canons Ashby (tower, Rte. 5); Middleton Cheney (parts, Rte. 5); *Byfield, late Dec., fine tower and spire (Rte. 5); Harleston, a dated example (Rte. 7); Holdenby, nave (Rte. 7); Church Brampton (Rte. 8); *Walgrave (Rte. 9); Deene (tower and spire, Rte. 10); Finedon (Rte. 12); Stanford, with fine Dec. glass (Rte. 13); Stanwick (parts, including spire, Rte. 15).

Perpendicular.—Wellingborough (parts, Rte. 2); *Rushden, interior with strainer arch (Rte. 2); *Irthlingborough, detached campanile, crowned by an octagon (Rte. 2); *Islip, excellent in proportions (Rte. 2); *Lowick, with fine glass and monuments (2); Tichmarsh (portions, Rte. 2); Aldwinckle All Saints', W. tower (Rte. 2); *Oundle (tower, Rte. 2); *Fotheringhay (Rte. 2); *Peterborough Cathedral (eastern portion, Rte. 2); Uffington, tower and spire (Rte. 3); Stamford, St. Martin's (Rte. 3); *Ashby St. Ledger's (Rte. 4); Towcester (parts, including tower, Rte. 5); *Easton Neston (Rte. 5); *Middleton Cheney, fine W. tower (Rte. 5); King's Sutton, good tower and spire, (Rte. 5); Charwelton (Rte. 5); Chipping Warden, arcade (Rte. 5); Great Brington (parts, Rte. 7); *Kettering, fine tower and spire (Rte. 9); Finedon, strainer arch (Rte. 12).

The churches of Castle Ashby (Rte. 2), and of Rockingham (Rte. 11), deserve attention for the memorials they contain: C. Ashby of the Comptons, Earls and Marquisses of Northampton, and Rockingham of the Watsons, Earls of Rockingham. Rockingham church has been entirely rebuilt. Other *monuments* of great interest are at Lowick (Rte. 2); at Stowe-Nine-Churches (Rte. 4); Peterborough Cathedral (Rte. 2); St. Martin's, Stamford (Rte. 3); Easton Neston (Rte. 5); Warkworth (Rte. 5); Steane Chapel (Rte. 6); and Warkton (Rte. 10).

Other remains of ecclesiastical architecture are the Queen Eleanor *Crosses;* that at Northampton (Rte. 1), and that at Geddington (Rte. 10). Among monastic remains are those at Peterborough (Rte. 2), and, to be mentioned here (since they are described in the present handbook) those at Crowland (Rte. 2).

§ XIV. *Domestic Architecture.*—The houses to be especially noticed

in the county are :—Upton Hall, with a roof of the 14th cent. (Rte. 1); Castle Ashby (Elizabethan and later, Rte. 2); a fragment of the manor-house at Yardley Hastings, 14th cent. (Rte. 2); Drayton, ranging from Edward III. to William III. (Rte. 2); Lyveden, old and new "builds," both Elizabethan (Rte. 2); Apethorpe, Elizabethan (Rte. 2); Fotheringhay, a "hostel" temp. Ed. IV. (Rte. 2); Milton, parts of beginning of 16th cent. (Rte. 2); Woodcroft, temp. Ed. I. (Rte. 3); Northborough, circ. 1350 (Rte. 3); Burghley (Rte. 3); Fawsley, portions of first half of 15th cent., great oriel circ. 1500; ruins of dower house in park, early 16th cent. (Rte. 4); Ashby St. Ledger's, partly Elizabethan (Rte. 4); Easton Neston, by Wren and Hawksmoor (Rte. 5); Canons Ashby, of various dates, but in part temp. Hen. VIII. (Rte. 5); Edgcott, date 1752 (Rte. 5); Althorp, various dates (Rte. 6); Holdenby, Elizabethan with modern restoration (Rte. 7); Lamport, by Webb, son-in-law of Inigo Jones (Rte. 8); Overstone, modern, by Teulon (Rte. 9); Boughton, last half of 17th cent. (Rte. 10); Deene, Tudor and later (Rte. 10); Kirby, Elizabethan, in ruins (Rte. 10); Rushton Hall, between 1595 and 1630; Triangular Lodge of same date (Rte. 12); Rothwell Market House of same date (Rte. 12).

Military.—Of Northampton Castle (Rte. 1) there remains only a fragment of the enclosing wall. Thorpe Waterville (Rte. 2) has a fragment dating from the 14th cent. Barnwell St. Andrew's (Rte. 2), a great Edwardian quadrangle with angle towers. Fotheringhay (Rte. 2) has only the mound. Rockingham (Rte. 11) has a great gateway dating from 1275, and in the domestic buildings of the castle are portions of the 13th cent. Other parts are of the 16th cent., chiefly Elizabethan.

Among other mediæval remains must be classed two very interesting *bridges:* one at Higham Ferrers (Rte. 2), of the 13th cent., and another over the Cherwell (Rte. 5), dating from about 1250.

§ XV. *Art Collections.*—The principal collections of pictures and other works of art in the county are at Castle Ashby (portraits, &c.,) Rte. 2; at Drayton (various: pictures, &c.), Rte. 2. At Althorp (pictures, portraits, *books*, china, &c.), Rte. 7. At Boughton (portraits, &c.), Rte. 10. At Rockingham (portraits, &c., &c.), Rte. 11; and at Burghley (pictures, portraits, &c.), Rte. 3.

Resources and Manufactures.

§ XVI. Under the section "*Geology*," the mineral wealth of Northamptonshire has already been noticed. The building-stones of the Lias and Oolites; and the iron ore from the Northamptonshire sand and the marlstones of the middle Lias, are its chief economical resources; and the recent working of the latter is gradually changing the appearance of large portions of the county.

The *agriculture* of Northamptonshire is far above the average, and

both corn and pasture lands are excellent. The number of acres under all kinds of crops, however, more than doubles that of the acres in pasture. The breeding and fattening of cattle and of sheep are among the chief objects of the Northamptonshire farmer; and the "Shorthorns" of Althorp and Burghley are widely famous. The most common breed of sheep is the improved Leicester.

The principal, indeed the only, *manufacture* carried on in the county is the making of boots and shoes. For this Northampton and the neighbourhood were famous from an early period; and there is a saying that "you know when you are within a mile of Northampton by the noise of the cobblers' lap-stones." Since the time when Fuller wrote that the town "may be said to stand chiefly on other men's legs," the trade has enormously increased; and the manufacturers have now the most extensive business of this sort in the world. Contracts are taken for the supply of the army, of the colonies, and of the principal markets throughout England. The trade is carried on not only in Northampton, but in every town and village along the eastern border and in the centre of the county.

TRAVELLER'S VIEW—HOTELS.

§ XVII. Those who are in quest of the picturesque alone must hardly be sent to Northamptonshire; although there are portions of the county of which the scenery is far from unpleasing. These lie for the most part towards the west and south-west, on the borders of Oxfordshire and Warwickshire.

But the antiquary and the lover of ecclesiastical architecture will find their full account in exploring the whole of the county. The most important churches lie on the eastern side, in and around the broad valley of the Nen. These may readily be visited in the course of long daily excursions from Northampton; but as the comfort, and not a little of the pleasure, of the tourist depend greatly on the character of his temporary quarters, it may be as well to point out the sort of accommodation which he will meet with in the county, and the best method of dealing with it.

The *best centres* from which to make excursions on all sides are *Northampton*, where the principal hotel is the "George;" fairly good, but in a somewhat noisy thoroughfare. *Wellingborough*, where the "Hind" inn is the best; but the town of Wellingborough, overrun by shoemakers, is not pleasant, and the same country may perhaps be as well commanded from *Kettering* (*Inn:* the "Royal," moderately good). There is a tolerable inn, the "White Hart," at *Thrapston*; an excellent centre, from which may be visited all the most interesting sites and churches as far as Wellingborough southward, and as Fotheringhay northward. At *Oundle* there is an old-fashioned and comfortable inn, the "Talbot." *Peterborough* commands the lower reaches of the Nen, and days' excursions are easily made to Crowland, to Stamford, and to Burghley. The best hotel at Peterborough is that of the Great

Northern Company, close to the Great Northern Railway station. There is another, the "Bull," in the city, which is good. Peterborough is so great a railway centre that it is a most convenient resting-place for the traveller, who may make excursions from it on all sides. At *Stamford* the principal hotel is the "George," large and somewhat gaunt, but fairly comfortable. But the tourist who desires only to see Stamford and Burghley may do so in days' excursions from Peterborough. Stamford is, however, the best place from which to visit parts of Rutland, or that portion of Northamptonshire which lies south of the town.

Market Harborough in Leicestershire (*Inn:* the "Three Swans") may be used as a centre for visiting the adjacent parts of Northamptonshire; which are not, however, of very high interest. Coming further south, a newly-built hotel will be found at *Weedon;* and the "Globe" in the village is tolerably comfortable. The neighbourhood of Weedon is interesting. Daventry may be visited from it, and several important churches. Either Weedon or *Daventry* (*Inn:* the "Peacock," good) will be the best points from which to explore the country lying towards Banbury; and from Banbury in Oxfordshire (*Inn:* the "Red Lion") the picturesque S.W. corner of Northamptonshire may be visited. Finally, there is a fairly good, old-fashioned inn, the "Pomfret Arms," at *Towcester*, which commands the opposite angle of the county.

These are the best stations for the tourist who desires to make himself well acquainted with the antiquarian treasures of the county. The points of most interest accessible from each are noted in the "Skeleton Tours" appended to the Introduction. The hotel accommodation in Northamptonshire is, upon the whole, but indifferent. The hotels at Peterborough, supported by a constant throng of travellers, are, as is to be expected, the best, and these are really good. The "George" at Northampton is the best in that town, but is not altogether satisfactory. In the smaller towns we can only look for such comfortable, old-fashioned hostelries as for the most part we find: but in these the visitor must not be too exacting. The pedestrian will find humble but not unpleasant accommodation in many a small village inn.

SECTION II.

RUTLAND.

INTRODUCTION.

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Extent and General Character—Geology.

§ XVIII. No very great space is required for all that need here be recorded of the smallest county in England—the "provinciola minima" of Camden. Small as it is, however, it has its own good features. "Indeed," says Fuller, "it is but the pestel of a lark, which is better than a quarter of some bigger bird, having the most cleanly profit in it. No place so fair for the rider, being more fruitful for the abider therein." This description so far still holds good, that the north-western part of the county is the district of the Cottesmore hunt; and that the "riding" throughout it is only exceeded in "fairness" by that of the Leicestershire district—the country of the Quorn—which adjoins Rutland. The area of Rutland comprises 94,889 statute acres, equal to about 150 square miles. The population in 1871 was 22,073—11,038 males and 11,035 females. The county is about eighteen miles in length from north to south, and fifteen in breadth from east to west; the circumference being nearly sixty miles. The shires which touch on Rutland are Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, and Lincolnshire.

The county nowhere rises into lofty ground; but it is marked throughout its whole extent (except on the north) by long ridges of land, running from east to west, the valleys lying between which are often of great richness. The vale of Catmose, in the neighbourhood of Oakham, is probably the richest of these broad stretches of land. North of this valley the country rises into a wide table-land, overlooking great part of Leicestershire. The only river of note is the Guash or Wash, which, rising in Leicestershire, a little beyond the Rutland border, traverses the whole of the county, and joins the Welland a little east of Stamford. "The comon saying is ther," writes Leland, "that Wash

and Wiland shal drown al Holande"—the fen country of Lincolnshire into which the united streams pass. There are smaller "riverets" draining other parts of Rutland; but although the valleys are sufficiently pleasant, and the views from the higher ground extensive, Rutland has no claim to be regarded as a picturesque county. The artist will find his best, perhaps his only, subjects in the villages, which are generally situated in the valleys. The churches are often fine; and whilst the adjoining country may be treeless, the church towers rise from the midst of well-grown elm and ash trees. The deeper wood is for the most part grouped about the parks of Burley-on-the-hill, Exton, and Normanton; but other parts of the county are fairly wooded. Much of the country south and west of Oakham was indeed anciently included within the royal forest of Lyfield; and the "forest of Rutland" is mentioned in a charter of Richard I. (A.D. 1190).

The geology of Rutland resembles that of Northamptonshire; since the whole area of the county is included in the great Jurassic belt. The Ketton Quarries, in the Inferior Oolite (Rte. 1), and those of Clipsham, (Rte. 3), have been worked from a very early period. The soil is in general a deep clay. On the whole, it is probably the natives of Rutland who will most fully accept and appreciate the praise of the county in Drayton's 'Polyolbion':—

"Love not thyself the less, although the least thou art,
What thou in greatness want'st, wise Nature doth impart
In goodness of thy soil; and more delicious mould,
Surveying all this isle, the sun did ne'er behold.
Bring forth that British vale, and be it ne'er so rare,
But Catmus with that vale for richness may compare.
What forest nymph is found, how brave soe'er she be,
But Lyfield shows herself as brave a nymph as she?
What river ever rose from bank or swelling hill
Than Rutland's wandering Wash, a delicater rill?
Small shire that can'st produce to thy proportion good
One vale of special name, one forest, and one flood!
O Catmus, thou fair vale! come on in grass and corn
That Beaver ne'er be said thy sisterhood to scorn,
And let thy Ocham boast to have no little grace
That her the pleased Fates did in thy bosom place!
And Lyfield, as thou art a forest, live so free
That every forest nymph may praise the sports in thee.
And down to Welland's course, O Wash! run ever clear
To honour, and to be much honoured by, this shire."

History.

§ XIX. The great historical question relating to Rutland, is how it became a distinct shire. As a shire it is of later date than the Domesday survey; in which a part of what is now Rutland is described under Northamptonshire, whilst the remainder, and the greater part, appears as an appendage to Nottinghamshire, from which Rutland is altogether separated by intervening portions of Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. On the whole, "the great divisions of our own times still follow those which William found in the land; so that within England proper—in marked contrast to most other parts of Europe—the map which repre-

sents the divisions of our own times represents, in the main, the divisions in the time of the Conqueror. . . . Domesday teaches us, better than any other witness of those times can teach us, that the England of the eleventh century and the England of the nineteenth, are one and the same thing. Rutland alone, in the very heart of the land, remains an insoluble problem."—*Freeman*, 'Norm. Conq.,' v. 40. It is impossible to trace the steps, or to determine the exact period, by or at which Rutland became an independent county. All we know is, that the change must have taken place at some time between the end of the eleventh century and the reign of John; since, in the fifth year of that king, among other lands assigned as a dowry to the Queen Isabella, appear "Com. Roteland et villam de Rockingham." This is the earliest notice of Rutland as a county; but it is remarkable that at a later period than this, "instead of finding the expenses of the shrievalty written on the great roll of the Pipe, like other counties, on a rotulet by themselves, they come in usually appended to Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, or Derbyshire."—*C. H. Hartshorne*, 'Archæol. Journal,' vol. v., p. 134.

The name "Roteland" was, however, applied to some portion of what now forms the county, at an early period. The "*Soca regis de Roteland*" appears in Domesday; and the will of the Confessor bequeathed "Roteland" to his queen, Eadgyth, for her life, and then to his newly established monastery at Westminster. The portion thus bequeathed, as we know, from other sources, comprised Oakham and the country round it. "Roteland," whatever the name may signify, belongs to the same class of names as Holland and Cleveland; and the district which the name indicated, was, like them, isolated, and perhaps independent, long before the separate provinces of the Mercian kingdom were arranged in shires (see *ante*, *Introd.* to Northamptonshire, § VII.). We cannot determine with certainty the meaning of the name, nor can we say whether it is Anglian or Danish. "There goes a tale," says Wright, the old historian of the county, "of one Rut, who rid round this county in a day. In memorial of which act, the space of ground so encircled was from him called Rutland." Again it has been suggested that "Rotelandia" may be so named from its circular form "quasi Rotundalandia;" or that "Roet," old French for a "wheel" may be the root, also from this rotundity. But it need hardly be said that all this etymology belongs to a pre-scientific period, and deserves no serious attention. Something more may possibly be due to the theory which makes Rutland "red land;" since there is certainly a small portion of the county marked by a very red clay, though hardly so red as "to stain the wool of the sheep that feed on it." On the whole we must be content to leave the meaning of the name and the origin of the county in much obscurity.

What is now Rutland was included in Mercia, and was within the bounds of the Denelagh. The division into "wapentakes," which has been held to be a mark of Danish occupation, occurs in it; but the wapentakes are also known as hundreds. There are no traces, in the county, of names which are certainly Danish.

The later history of Rutland is a blank, except in so far as the Castle of Oakham is concerned. For the history of the castle, see Rte. 1. The fight known as "Loosecoat Field" occurred at a place between Stamford and Stretton in 1740 (see Rte. 4).

Edward, eldest son of Edmund of Langley, 5th son of Edward III., was created Earl of Rutland in 1389 (13th Rich. II.). His nephew, Richard Plantagenet, succeeded him. This was the Duke of York, killed at Wakefield in 1460; and his son, Edmund, who had shortly before been created Earl of Rutland, was stabbed after the battle by Clifford. The earldom then became extinct in the royal house. In 1525, Thomas, 13th Lord Roos, was created Earl of Rutland. The 10th earl was created Duke of Rutland in 1703.

Antiquities.

§ XX.—*Roman.* The ancient road known as the Ermyn Street, which if not of Roman origin was adopted by the Romans, ran through what is now the N.E. portion of Rutland (see Rte. 4). On it was an important station at Great Casterton (Rte. 4). Roman relics have occasionally been found on the line of this road, but none of great note.

Mediæval.—The *Churches* of Rutland are, many of them, of considerable interest. It deserves mention here that the round arch maintained its position in this district in a remarkable manner, after the Early English had become fully developed. The churches of Great Casterton, Clipsham, Stretton, and some others (nearly all in the northern portion of the county) afford good instances. The following are the churches which the ecclesiologist should visit.

Norman.—Ketton (Rte. 1) has a Trans.-Norm. W. front. Edith Weston (Rte. 2) has Trans.-Norm. portions. Glaiston (Rte. 2) and Morcott (Rte. 2) have some curious Norm. work. Clipsham (Rte. 3) is in part late Norm. *Tickencote (Rte. 4) is very remarkable, and well deserves attention. At Essendine (Rte. 5) is a Norman portal.

Early English.—*Ketton, chancel and fine tower. Preston (Rte. 2), parts; Stoke Dry (Rte. 2), parts; but this church is more early Dec. It is noticeable for the Digby monuments. Burley-on-the-Hill (Rte. 3), parts. Stretton (Rte. 3). Great Casterton (Rte. 4). Empingham (Rte. 4), with Perp. alterations. Ryhall (Rte. 5), in part.

Decorated.—Ashwell (Rte. 1), parts; Uppingham (Rte. 2). The church is almost rebuilt, but the early Dec. arcade has been retained. *Lyddington (Rte. 2), Early Dec. and Perp. Cottesmore (Rte. 3), Dec. and Perp., with fine W. tower and spire. Greetham (Rte. 3), noble Dec. tower and spire. Clipsham (Rte. 3), in parts. Exton (Rte. 4), with fine monuments of Haringtons and Noels.

Perpendicular.—*Oakham (Rte. 1), in greatest part. Langham (Rte. 1), with some early English portions.

Domestic Architecture.—The remarkable, and perhaps unique, *hall of Oakham Castle (Rte. 1) must be mentioned here. In the town of

Oakham is the house called Flore's (Rte. 1), of Early English date, but much altered in Perp. times. The Bede House at Lyddington (Rte. 2) dates in great part from the end of the fourteenth century.

Military.—The sole remains are some fragments of the wall of Oakham Castle, the moats there, and the moat at Essendine Castle (Rte. 5).

Among *modern buildings*, Exton Hall (Rte. 4), and the new schools at Uppingham (Rte. 2), deserve mention.

RESOURCES—TRAVELLER'S VIEW.

§ XXI. Rutland has no manufactures; and the fine building-stone which is quarried on the east and north-east of the county is its most important mineral production.

The tourist in Rutland will hardly desire to do more than visit Oakham, perhaps Uppingham, and some of the principal churches. He will find a fairly good, old-fashioned country inn at Oakham (the "Crown"), and a newly-built one (the "Falcon"), comfortable enough, at Uppingham. Every place of interest or importance may be visited from one of these centres, or from Stamford, which is on the border of the county. The hotel at Stamford (see Northamptonshire, *Introd.* § XVII.), is the "George."

SKELETON TOURS.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

(The best hotels have already been mentioned in § XVII. The places best worth attention, and the centres from which they may most easily be visited, are pointed out here.)

1.

A Week at Northampton.

Monday.—See the Churches in Northampton. The Castle. Queen Eleanor's Cross.

Tuesday.—By rail to Higham Ferrers Station. Visit Higham Ferrers in the morning. In the afternoon, Irthlingborough. (Luncheon should be taken. The inn at H. Ferrers is rough.)

[A good pedestrian may stop at Wellingborough Station; walk to the Roman station, and the Church at Irchester: thence (2½ m.) to H. Ferrers: so to Irthlingborough; and return to Northampton by rail.]

Wednesday.—Drive to Althorp; Great Brington (Spencer Monuments); Holdenby.

Thursday.—To Thrapston by rail. Visit Islip; Drayton; Lowick; the Aldwinckles.

Friday.—To Earl's Barton Station; E. Barton Church; Castle Ashby; and Easton Maudit Church. [*Driving* from Northampton, Castle Ashby may be visited, and the drive continued to Yardley Hastings, and the great oaks in Yardley Chase.]

Saturday.—To Towcester by rail. Easton Neston, House and Church.

Spending Sunday in Northampton, the tourist may proceed on Monday to Market Harborough by rail, stopping at Brixworth Station to see the remarkable Church. From Market Harborough may be visited—

Tuesday.—Naseby and the Battle-field.

Wednesday.—Rockingham; Castle and Church.

2.

A Week at Peterborough.

Sunday.—Cathedral.

Monday.—Cathedral and remains of Monastery in morning. In afternoon visit Longthorpe.

Tuesday.—To Crowland.

Wednesday.—Castor and Milton.

Thursday.—Barnack and Wittering Churches.

Friday.—Fotheringhay; Apethorpe; Oundle.

Saturday.—Excursion to Huntingdon, or into Cambridgeshire.

3.

A Week at Stamford.

Monday.—Stamford; Town and Churches.

Tuesday.—Burghley; House and Park.

Wednesday.—By rail to Oakham. Oakham Church and Castle in the morning. In afternoon to Langham.

Thursday.—Drive to Tickencote Church; Empingham; Exton.

Friday.—Excursion to Rockingham by rail. Castle and Church.

4.

An Ecclesiological Tour through the Valley of the Nen.

Start from Northampton. *Monday*; see the Churches there, and the Cross.

Tuesday.—Earl's Barton; Castle Ashby; Easton Maudit. Proceed to Wellingborough and sleep.

Wednesday.—Irchester; Higham Ferrers; Irthlingborough; Rushden. Proceed to Thrapston and sleep.

Thursday.—From Thrapston to Raunds and Stanwick; meet train at Higham Ferrers Station. Return to Thrapston.

Friday.—Islip; Drayton; Lowick; the Aldwinckles. Proceed to Oundle and sleep.

Saturday.—Oundle; Polebrook; Barnwell Castle. By rail to Peterborough.

Sunday.—At Peterborough.

Monday.—Excursion to Fotheringhay; Tansor; Warningham. Return to Peterborough.

5.

Three Days at Kettering.

1. Kettering Church; Barton Seagrave. In afternoon by rail to Rushton and Rothwell.

2. Drive from Kettering to Boughton; see Warkton Church with Montagu Monuments; to Geddington (Queen Eleanor's Cross). Return to Kettering.

3. Drive to Deene and Kirby.

6.

Tour from Northampton.

1. To Weedon by rail, drive or walk from Weedon to Stowe-Nine-Churches. In evening to Daventry.

2. From Daventry to Fawsley or Canons Ashby.

3. Drive to Banbury.

4. Visit Edgehill from Banbury.

5. From Banbury to Brackley, so back to Northampton.

7.

For Rutland nothing need be added to the information given in the several Routes. The centres (§ XXI.) are Stamford, Oakham, and Uppingham.

MAPS AND PLANS.

PLAN OF PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL .. .. .. *to face page* 67
MAP OF NORTHANTS AND RUTLAND .. .. .. *at end.*

HANDBOOK

FOR

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

SECTION I.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

ROUTES.

*** The names of places are printed in *Italics* only in those routes where the *places* are described.

ROUTE	PAGE
1 London to *Northampton*, viâ *Blisworth* (London & N.W. Railway)	2
2 Northampton to *Peterborough* (*Earl's Barton*, *Higham Ferrers*, *Fotheringhay*. Exc. from Peterborough, *Crowland*), London & N.W. Railway	14
3 Peterborough to *Stamford* (*Burghley*, *Barnack*)	86
4 Northampton to Rugby (*Weedon*, *Daventry*). *Railway*	105
5 Northampton by *Towcester* to Stratford-on-Avon (*Canons Ashby*, *Edgehill*). *Railway*	123
6 Banbury to Northampton, *Farthingho* to *Brackley*. *Railway*	152
7 Northampton to Rugby, by *Road* (*Althorp*, *Holdenby*) ..	157
8 Northampton to Market Harborough (*Railway*). *Brixworth*, *Naseby*	173
9 Northampton to *Kettering*, by *Road*	182
10 Kettering to Stamford by *Road* (*Boughton*, *Geddington*, *Deane*)	188
11 Kettering to *Rockingham*, by *Road*	195
12 Wellingborough by *Rail* to Market Harborough (*Rothwell*, *Rushton*)	200
13 Rugby to Market Harborough; M. Harborough to Stamford, by *Rail* ..	207
14 Thrapston by *Rail* to Kettering	211
15 Thrapston to Kimbolton, by *Rail*. (*Raunds*, *Stanwick*)	211

ROUTE 1.

LONDON TO NORTHAMPTON, VIÂ BLISWORTH.

(London and North-Western Rly., Euston Station. Many trains daily. Change at Blisworth for Northampton. By the fast trains the distance (67½ m.) is performed in 1¾ hr.

For the line passed over between the Euston Stat. and Tring, see *Handbook for Hertfordshire*. At 34½ m. from Euston we reach *Tring* Stat., and pass almost at once after leaving it into Buckinghamshire. For a full description of the places of interest passed by the rly. in its progress through that county, see *Handbook for Buckinghamshire*. Here they can be only briefly noticed.

2½ m. W. of Tring Stat. is *Drayton Beauchamp*, where the "judicious" Hooker was rector during the years 1584–5, "behaving himself so as to give no occasion of evil." Here it was that, as we read in the pages of Walton, he was visited by his two pupils, George Cranmer and Edwin Sandys, who found him in the "uncomfortable companionship" of his wife Joan; and here "Richard" was called to "rock the cradle." Edwin Sandys related his tutor's "sad condition" to his father, then Archbishop of York, and in the following year Hooker was made Master of the Temple.

The ridges and heights of the Chiltern Hills are seen rt. of the line; and the fine *Ch.* of *Ivinghoe*, cruciform and Dec., with a good timber roof and many brasses, lies 1 m. E. 1 m. W. is *Marsworth*, with a Perp. church.

36 m. is *Cheddington* Junct. Stat., whence a branch line of rly. runs to *Aylesbury*, 7¼ m. The Perp. church has been restored by *Street*. Conspicuous N. is *Mentmore Towers*, the stately residence of Baron Meyer de Rothschild. There are some good pictures and other works of art, besides a fine collection of majolica and enamels. *Wing Ch.*, with possible Saxon work, is passed l. before the line reaches

40½ m. *Leighton* Junct. Stat. A branch line runs hence to Dunstable and Luton (see *Handbook for Bedfordshire*). The fine church of Leighton Buzzard, seen rt., is fully described in *Bedfordshire*, Rte. 4. Between this and

46¾ m. *Bletchley* Junct., there is nothing calling for notice. At Bletchley lines run west to Oxford, and east to Bedford (see *Handbook for Bedfordshire*). The Perp. ch. of Bletchley was restored by the antiquary Browne Willis in 1704; but his work has of late years been "undone." There is a striking avenue of ancient yew-trees, and, in the church, the tomb of Richard, Lord Grey of Wilton, d. 1442. The town of *Fenny Stratford*, once famous for its inns (it was on the old high road to London—the Watling Street), lies 1 m. rt. The next stat. is

52¼ m. *Wolverton* Junct., where a branch, 4 m., runs N.E. to Newport Pagnell. Wolverton (the village is 1 m. W. of the stat.) has a pseudo-Norman church, built in 1815; and at New Wolverton is a modern E. E. one. The pop. is mainly in the employ of the London and N. W. Rly. There is a model lodging-house, and a science and art institute. 2 m. W., on the Ouse, is Stony Stratford, where the Watling Street crosses the river. One of the Eleanor crosses stood in the town of Stony Stratford, and was destroyed in 1646. At about 55 m. from London the rly. crosses the border of Buckinghamshire, and reaches at

60 m. *Roade* Stat.

[On the extreme border of Northamptonshire, rt., is the little village of *Hartwell*, on high ground, and on the southern limit of Salcey Forest. The present church was built in 1851, and into it was worked a late Norm. arcade, removed from the church then destroyed. There is much enrichment in the capitals and outer arch mouldings, which spring somewhat remarkably from a crown of leaves placed on the capital. This Hartwell must not be confounded with Hartwell near Aylesbury, the residence, from 1810 to 1814, of the exiled Louis XVIII. Close to the rly., rt., is *Stoke Bruern;* where the *Church*, Dec. and Perp., but with Norm. portions (inner portal of tower), was restored in 1865. There are some monuments, but none of much importance. l. of the rly. is *Stoke Bruern Park*, belonging to F. W. J. Vernon Wentworth, Esq. The house (of which the S. elevation is engraved in Campbell's *Vitruvius Britannicus*) was built by Sir Francis

Crane (who established a manufacture of tapestry at Mortlock), partly from a design brought from Italy, and partly with the assistance of Inigo Jones. It was begun about 1630, and finished before 1636; between which years Sir Francis received a visit here from Charles I. and his queen. The house has however been altered since its completion, and during the present century was partly cased in white freestone.

Near Stoke Bruern the rly. runs nearly parallel with the *Grand Junction Canal;* which passes from Braunston on the border of Warwickshire, where it unites with the Oxford Canal, and proceeds thence to Blisworth, whence there is a branch to Northampton. The main canal runs onward from Blisworth to Cosgrove, and so into Buckinghamshire. At Stoke Bruern the canal is carried on a level above the houses in the lower part of the village. Seven locks lift the navigation to the entrance of a tunnel, 1¾ m. long, known as the Blisworth tunnel; the southern end of which is a short distance from the village.

Ashton Ch., passed beyond Stoke, is late Perp. (restored), and is only interesting for the monuments it contains. There is a wooden effigy of a cross-legged knight, Sir Philip le Lou, Lord of "Esshe," who was living in 1315, much shattered. On an altar-tomb in the N. wall, with trefoil-headed arches in front, is the effigy of Sir John Herteshull, or Hardreshull (they were of Hartshill, in Warwickshire), d. circa 1365. He is in armour, carved in alabaster. There is also an altar-tomb, with *brasses* for Robert Marriott, d. circa 1580, and wife. Beneath the figures is a long inscription, which partly runs :—

"Robert Marriott here dothe lie, a yeoman bleste with goode."

. . . . . .

In England I red, in Ashton dwelte, an awncient married man,
Where goodes he left, and nowe is gone to earth from whence he cam."

He is bare-headed, and wears a merchant's gown, faced with minever.]

There is nothing at *Roade* to delay the tourist. The little church is Trans.-Norm., with an enriched S. door.

[1 m. N. of Roade is *Courteenhall Hall* (occupied by C. C. Dormer, Esq.; it belongs to Sir Hereward Wake), a large square mansion, in a well-wooded park. The *Church* contains a monument, with life-sized figures, in white marble, for Sir Samuel Jones, d. 1672, and his wife. Sir Samuel was the founder of a free school here.]

Through a very deep cutting, crossing the parishes of Roade and Courteenhall, which cost 200,000*l.*, and is one of the most noticeable in the country, we reach

62½ m. *Blisworth* Junct. Hence the main line of the N. W. Rly. proceeds to Rugby and Birmingham. Branch lines run W. and S.W. to Stratford-on-Avon (by Fenny Compton); by Towcester to Banbury; and northward, by Northampton to Peterborough. Blisworth is thus a great railway centre; and about 350 trains, passenger and goods, pass through the station daily. Opposite the station is the *Railway Hotel*, where carriages may be hired.

The *Ch.* of Blisworth (1 m. from the stat.), restored 1855, is of no very great interest. Near it is *Blisworth House* (Captain Maunsell). Ironstone is much worked in the parish.

Besides the trains running direct from Blisworth to Peterborough (of which there are five daily, all of which of course stop at Northampton), there is a very frequent service of short trains between Blisworth and Northampton. The time of passage is ten minutes. There is nothing which calls for notice until we reach

67½ m. from London, NORTHAMPTON.

(The stat. (Bridge St.) at which the train stops is on the rt. bank of the Nen, ½ m. from the centre of the town. Omnibuses meet the trains. There are three rly. stations in Northampton: *Bridge St.*, at which the trains arrive from Blisworth, and whence they proceed to Peterborough; that called the *Castle Station*, adjoining the Castle ruins, on the S. W. side of the town, from which trains run to Market Harborough; and the *Midland*, in the town, whence trains run to Bedford. The pop. of the borough of Northampton in 1871 was 41,168 (in 1861, 32,813). *Hotels:* the George (best) near All Saints' Ch., noisy, and not too reasonable in its charges; the Angel.)

The town of *Northampton* (the "Hamtune" of the Saxon Chronicle; afterwards, as "North" Hampton, distinguished from the port of "South" Hampton) stretches upward along the ridge of high ground on the l. bank of the Nen, at a point where that river, flowing from the western border of the county, makes a bend towards the N.E. Northampton seems to have been one of the first important centres (others were Bedford and Huntingdon) of the "Middle Angles," as they are called, an Anglian race which occupied this eastern portion of Mercia. The Danes possessed themselves of the "burgh" in the 9th centy., and submitted in 921 to Edward the Elder, during the expedition in which he subdued this part of the "Danelagh." In 1010 a Danish host, in that great harrying of the country which preceded Svend's conquest of it, burned Northampton, and "took thereabout as much as they would;" and in 1065, when Northumbria revolted against Tostig and deposed him, Morkere, who was chosen in his place, marched southward, joined by the men of Lincoln, Nottingham, and Derby, reached Northampton, and made it his headquarters. He was met here by his brother Eadwine, at the head of the men of his Mercian earldom; and together they ravaged the surrounding country, "slew men, burned houses and corn, took cattle, and led north with them many hundred men"—apparently as slaves. Northamptonshire and the other shires near it, were, says the Chronicle, "for many winters the worse." There had been some ancient connexion between the great earldom of Northumbria and the shire of Northampton (for which reason, perhaps, Morkere stationed his "host" in and about the "burgh"), and Siward had been earl of both. At the settlement between Morkere and the Confessor, which Harold arranged at a great gemote held at Oxford, it was determined that Northamptonshire should be altogether separated from Northumbria, and the earldom, together with that of Huntingdonshire, was assigned to Waltheof, son of Siward (see Freeman's 'Norm. Conq.' ii. 499, and the Note G, on the great earldoms). Waltheof held them until his beheading at Winchester in 1076. His wife, Judith, niece of the Conqueror, retained large estates in Northamptonshire, and legend (for it is nothing more) asserts that the Conqueror desired to give her in marriage to Simon of Senlis, who was lame, and who in the story appears as "Earl of Northampton." Judith refused a lame husband, and fled from the wrath of William to Hereward's refuge in the marshes of Ely. All this story is mythical; but it is certain that a daughter of Waltheof and Judith did marry Simon of Senlis, and conveyed to him the earldoms of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. (For the succession of the Huntingdonshire earldom see *Handbook for Huntingdonshire.*) Simon of Senlis

was the founder of the Norman castle at Northampton and of the neighbouring priory of St. Andrew.

The central position of Northampton, in the midst of a great forest district (for the greater part of the county was at one time included within the bounds of the forest of Rockingham), made it a favourite resort of the Norman and Angevin kings. Henry I. kept Easter here. Many great councils and parliaments were held here, sitting in the great hall of the castle, which descended, with the title of earl, to the grandson of the founder, Simon of Senlis, but had passed sometime before his death in 1184 (when the earldom in that line became extinct) into the hands of the crown. In 1164, during a great council of Henry II., the famous scene took place in the castle hall, when Archbp. Becket appeared bearing his own cross, and after the bishops had renounced their obedience to him, escaped by night to Sandwich, and thence crossed to Flanders. There was another great council here in 1176, when the Constitutions of Clarendon were ratified; when the king of Scotland was present, and England was first divided into six circuits, to each of which three itinerant judges were appointed. (For the later *parliaments* held here see *post*.) Richard I., after his return from captivity, kept Easter at Northampton. King John was especially fond of the town, and paid it frequent visits, sometimes four in the year, throughout his reign. (Shakespeare accordingly opens his play of 'King John' at Northampton.) Henry III. was often here, and was holding a great council in 1224 when the news was brought to him of the rebellion of Faulke de Breaute, whom the archbishop and other prelates present anathematized, and the council granted a subsidy for making machines for the siege of Bedford Castle (see *Handbook for Bedfordshire*). Toward the middle of the century Northampton had nearly taken the place of Oxford as one of the principal universities of the country. In consequence of the violent disputes between the university and the town, the students abandoned Oxford, and in 1260 settled at Northampton, where the mayor, bailiffs, and other "good men" were directed (in 1261) by Henry III. to afford them protection and accommodation. They were recalled, however, somewhat later, by the entreaties of the people of Oxford, and by the king's command, and Northampton lost its greatest chance of distinction. In 1264 the town was taken possession of by the barons. Prince Edward, on the king's side, assaulted it; the younger De Montfort was taken prisoner early in the siege; the castle was gained by stratagem, and the town sacked by the royalists—events which led to a firmer union of the barons, and to the battle of Lewes (May 14, 1264). In 1267 there was a great gathering of nobles here, and 100 knights assumed the cross in presence of Henry III. and his court. In 1290 the body of Queen Eleanor, on its way from Lincolnshire to London, rested here, and the cross which still remains was raised in commemoration. In 1460, the army of Henry VI. was defeated by the Duke of York, with great loss, in the meadows near the convent of Delapré (see *post*) outside the town. Many nobles fell; Queen Margaret fled to Scotland, and Henry himself remained a prisoner in the hands of the duke.

Parliaments were held at Northampton in 1307, immediately after the death of Ed. I. at Burgh-on-the Sands; in 1328, when what is known as the "first statute of Northampton" was enacted, which confirmed the great charters and amended the criminal law; in 1338; and in 1381, when the "second statute of Northampton" was passed, enforcing the

gauging of all foreign wines, and proclaiming the terms of the royal pardon for escaped felons. The last of these parliaments was held in a "chamber of St. Andrew's Priory," and it is probable that none had been held in the castle since that of 1307. The great hall there had been destroyed by fire before 1323, and there is no evidence that it was ever rebuilt. The castle had fallen much into ruin, and served as a prison from the reign of Ed. III. until the last century, when it passed into private hands.

The *burgh* of Northampton, like other English towns, obtained its charters of liberties by purchase and by payment of an annual sum to the royal exchequer. The earliest charter was granted by Richard I., and the result of all the charters was to give the town increased freedom from the jurisdiction and encroachments of all persons and authorities outside its liberty. The "præpositus," or provost, becomes at last a mayor; and the borough was finally "incorporated" by the name of the "mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of Northampton," in 1460, the year of the battle of Delapré. (The several charters will be found in Hartshorne's 'Hist. Memorials of Northampton,' 1848, and afford an excellent illustration of the gradual growth in liberty of an English town.) Many guilds existed among the burgesses and the craftsmen, one of the most important being that of the *shoemakers*, whose trade had become the principal in Northampton (as it is at present) before the reign of Edward VI. The "winter shoes" of Wm. de Blatherwyk, foxhunter of Edward I., and those of his 2 assistants, cost here 7*s.*; and King John gave 12*d.* for a pair of single-soled boots (pro 1 pari botarum singularum). The citizens furnished Cromwell's army, in 1648, with 1500 pairs of shoes: and there is an old saying that "you may know when you are within a mile of Northampton by the smell of the leather and the noise of the lapstones." The trade received its greatest impulse from the government contracts obtained for it by Spencer Percival, who sat as member for the borough up to the time of his assassination (the town was one of the first to send members to parliament). In 1844 Queen Victoria passed through Northampton on her way to Burleigh, and the mayor presented Prince Albert with a pair of boots. Northampton supplied the Crimea with mud-boots, and sent shoes to the French army during the war with Prussia. The quantity of leather sold at its *fairs*, which were important (one of them continued for a month) was, and still is, very great. It was the chief mart for the old "leather bottel."

The visitor to Northampton will at once be reminded, by the leather aprons and grimy faces which haunt the streets, that he is in a land of shoemakers—a somewhat turbulent race, who, on more than one occasion, have rendered the parliamentary elections here scenes of unusual riot. There are large tanyards, and one or two important breweries, especially that of Phipps, a fine building in Bridge Street. The town has four principal streets, one of which (Bridge Street) climbs a steep hill from the river side, and the church of All Saints stands in an open place near the crossing. The *Market Square*, which lies off the street (the Drapery) running northward, has been called "the finest in Europe"—an extravagant and unkindly laudation. It is, however, a good "emplacement," though not over picturesque. In the centre is a well designed drinking fountain and lamp, given, in 1863, by Samuel Isaac, captain of the 5th corps of Northants. Volunteers. On the N. is a new Corn Exchange—by no means to be commended—with a

long, unbroken mass of roof, which asserts itself most unpleasantly in all distant views of the town. In spite of its antiquity, and of the royal favour it could so long boast of, Northampton is an ordinary-looking town, with few (apparent) marks of great age, and with no very ancient houses. This is, no doubt, owing in part to the great fire of 1675, when 600 houses were destroyed and an enormous quantity of goods plundered in the confusion. "May the stolen sugars," says a writer, who describes the scene, "fruit, spices, linen, clothes, bedding, or whatever else these men of prey took by fraud, be bitter, hot, cold, and uneasy to them, till they have eased their consciences of so great a guilt." There is a long and pleasant modern suburb on the Billing Road eastward. The visitor should see the *Town Hall*, the *Churches* of *St. Peter* and the *Holy Sepulchre*, which best represent the ancient dignity of the place, and are both of the highest interest; the church of *All Saints*; and the ruins, scanty enough, of the *Castle*.

The *Town Hall* in Abingdon St., E. of All Saints' Ch., was opened in 1864, having been three years in building. The architect is *E. W. Godwin*. It is perhaps too much broken into enrichment outside and in, and certainly wants repose. The exterior has numerous statues of English kings by Boulton of Worcester; and on the arches of the lower windows are subjects connected with the history of the place,—the marriage of Waltheof and Judith; Hen. II. granting the first charter to the town; the grant of the charter of incorporation of Hen. VI.; and the resting of the body of Queen Eleanor, on its way to Westminster. There are also, in the lower part of the front, some carvings illustrating various branches of the staple trade (that in boots and shoes) in early days. In the vestibule of the great hall are various sculptured figures, among which St. Crispin is appropriately conspicuous; besides groups representing the various parliaments held in Northampton. The great hall itself is striking, with a figure of Moses at the S. end, and opposite, an organ (German) which obtained a prize in the Exhibition of 1851. The Magistrates' Court, in which the Petty Sessions are held, is but slightly decorated. The council chamber is a fine room, with figures and inscriptions over the fire-place, —a reaper, with the words, "He that gathereth in summer is a wise son:" and a man warming himself over the flame,—"Numbed with holding all the day, the hatchet keene with which he felled around." On the staircase is a window of which the stained glass represents subjects from Tennyson's 'Idylls.' On the upper floor is a *Museum*, which the visitor should see. Many interesting relics discovered in different parts of the county are preserved here; and the statue of Spencer Perceval by *Chantrey*, which for a long time stood in All Saints' Church, was removed to this Museum in 1866. Mr. Perceval was killed in the lobby of the House of Commons, May 11, 1812. He was at that time M.P. for Northampton.

Ancient Northampton had four principal churches, one in each quarter of the town—St. Peter's, the H. Sepulchre, All Saints', and St. Giles's. Of these, St. Peter's is peculiar and very rich Norm. The H. Sepulchre is one of the four round churches (so called) in England. All Saints' was rebuilt after the fire, and, except the tower, is of Charles II.'s time. St. Giles's is chiefly Perp. There are some modern churches—St Edmund's and St. James's in the W. suburb, but these call for no special notice.

* *St. Peter's Church*, near the W. end of the town, above the castle and the bridge which there crosses the Nen, has been restored under

Scott's direction. It is possible that the whole of the existing ch. was built as the choir of a much larger one which was never completed. There are some churches in Normandy of which the choirs resemble this. There is, however, no evidence to prove such an intention; and all that is certain is that the ch. must have been built whilst the Senlis Earls were lords of Northampton, and probably by the last earl (d. 1184), since the ch. is of late Norm. character, and may date from about 1160. Some alterations were made in Perp. times, when the N porch was built, and Perp. windows were inserted in the aisles. On the *exterior* remark the N. portal (Norm.) within the porch; the corbel table of heads immediately under the roof; the arrangement of the shallow arcade, pierced at intervals for the clerestory; the W. front with a remarkable flat arch, enriched, over the tympanum of the window; the two lower stages of the tower; and the triple, pier-like buttresses at the angles—the last a somewhat French feature, and, at any rate, very rare in England. *Inside* the ch. the principal features are the main arcade and the western tower arch. These are highly enriched. There is no strongly-marked division between nave and chancel, but whilst in the nave the piers are alternately round, with rings in the centre, and grouped in 3 rounded shafts, with a fourth attached, rising to the roof as a vaulting shaft, in the chancel the piers are all round, and the two easternmost only are ringed. The rings are all enriched with a twisted ornament resembling metal work—one of the earliest forms of the ring which constantly occurs in E. Eng. The nave caps. are wonderfully sculptured with interlacing cords, leafage, birds, and heads. Those at the W. end of the chancel should especially be noticed. The circ. arches have plain soffetes, but are surrounded with zigzag. Rude masonry and springers remain in the aisles, showing that they were once vaulted, and perhaps loftier than at present. The W. arch across the tower recedes in 3 orders, and has much ornament. It is unusual to find so enriched an arch in this position—a fact which must be remembered in connection with the suggestion that the present ch. may have been intended at first to be much larger. There is, too, a hollow in the tower wall, W. of the arch, which is puzzling. The tower itself seems later than the rest of the ch., and to have more of E. Eng. character.

The E. wall of the chancel has been entirely rebuilt by *Scott*. The original east end had been replaced by a modern wall, in which fragments of the older stone-work were found to be embedded; and these to some extent guided Sir G. Scott in the existing arrangement of windows, which are in 3 tiers.

In the ch. was buried John Smith, an eminent "mezzotinto scraper," died 1742. At the W. end of the S. aisle is a tablet, with bust, of Dr. William Smith, known as the "father of English Geology." He was born in 1769 at Churchill in Oxfordshire; began in 1791 to survey collieries and canals near Bath, and "observing that the several strata were characterized by peculiar groups of organic remains, he adopted this fact as a principle of comparison," . . . and published in 1815 a geological map of England and Wales. He died here, Aug. 28, 1839—on his way to the meeting of the British Assoc. at Birmingham—at the house of his friend George Baker, the historian of Northamptonshire, and was buried in the ch.-yd. A little below, is a tablet which commemorates Baker himself—born in Northampton 1781, died 1851; and his sister, his helpmate in all his labours, Ann Eliz. Baker, born 1786, died

1861. Only a portion of Baker's County History was ever completed; but this is most excellent. The old house in which he lived is still standing, a little higher up the street than St. Peter's Ch., and on the same side. It had belonged to Sir Arthur Hazelrigge in the days of Charles I. A chapel, in which Dr. Doddridge preached for many years, exists in a lane nearly opposite this house.

St. Sepulchre's, as it is called, near the old North gate, at the end of Sheep St.), or the ch. of the Holy Sepulchre, is one of 4 in England—the others are at Cambridge, at Little Maplestead in Essex, and the Temple Ch.. in London—which were built under the direct influence of the Crusade, and of which the form was imitated from that of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. The 3 other churches were built by Templars or Hospitallers; but there is no evidence that this ch. at Northampton was the work of either order. The first Earl Simon was a crusader, and he may have been the builder, though this is not certain. The ch. was, however, made over by Hen. I. to the community of St. Andrew's Priory, certainly founded by Earl Simon. The plan resembles that of the other Sepulchre churches—a circular nave, with a long choir and presbytery projecting from it. The whole ch. has been restored by *Scott*, —the rounded portion as the especial memorial of the Rev. Thomas James, Canon of Peterborough, d. 1864, himself an earnest restorer of "waste places," and well known in all good works. The massive circular piers of the round (it is rather octagonal than round, as the wall above indicates) support pointed arches, and above every alternate arch is a small square-headed window. The font (modern) is in the centre, and the canopy is carried by a chain from the open wooden roof, also new. The font is supported by figures of 3 kneeling Templars, pouring water (of the Jordan) from urns. On the bowl are sculptured the baptism of Our Lord, Philip and the Eunuch, and other subjects. The rich tiling of the floor, and the manner in which sepulchral inscriptions are arranged in the tiles, should be noticed. The windows in the round are late Dec. except 2, round-headed, S. and N. The bases of the great piers were almost completely buried in the ground before the restoration.

Owing to the unusual ground-plan, the effect looking eastward is very remarkable. What is now used as the nave, but was probably the original chancel, has Trans.-Norm. piers on the N. side (with one later E. Eng.), and massive Dec. on the S. On the N. side are traces of Norm. windows in the wall, which was cut through to form the present arches. There are remains of a fresco in one of these arches never quite pierced through the wall, also on the N. side. There is an additional S. aisle, with E. Eng. piers and caps. The wall and windows, of Dec. character, are new. The presbytery or apse, and eastern ends of aisles, are new, from Scott's designs. Arches and piers are of oolite, banded (too regularly) in brown and white, with smaller shafts of various marbles The main arch is much enriched with leafage. There is some modern stained glass. The carving of the sedilia is good; and the choir-desks are inlaid in front with variously coloured woods, as at Llandaff.

W. of the round is the tower, capped by a spire, and apparently Perp. It is not graceful. The tower has enormous angular buttresses, receding in 6 stages.

All Saints' Ch., in the "Drapery," was, except the tower, entirely destroyed by the fire of 1675. Over the portico is a statue of Charles II.; and along the front runs an inscription:—"This statue was erected in memory of King Charles II., who gave a thousand tun of timber to-

ward the rebuilding of this ch., and to this town." He also remitted "chimney money" for 7 years. (The timber was taken from Whittlebury Forest.) The tower (originally central) is Dec., with a lantern raised on it. The body of the ch. is fine for its period. The pillars are lofty and good, and the nave ceiling and the dome or cupola which rises from it, are much enriched and ornamented. The *Organ*, first erected in 1700, but almost entirely reconstructed, is a very good one, and deserves notice. It was on the application of the clerk of this ch. that Cowper, for 7 successive years, furnished a "copy of verses" to be appended to the annual "bill of mortality" kept in the parish, and delivered yearly to the mayor and other worthy inhabitants. The clerk, as Cowper writes to Lady Hesketh, walked to Weston Underwood to beg the poet's help, telling him that one Cox, a statuary, who had hitherto supplied the verses, was "a gentleman of so much reading that the people of our town cannot understand him." Cowper accordingly consented; and "the waggon," he adds, "has gone this day to Northampton loaded in part with my effusions in the mortuary style. A fig for poets who write epitaphs upon individuals! I have written *one* that serves *two hundred* persons." The "Northampton Tables," on which all life insurance calculations have been founded, were framed by Dr. Price on the bills of mortality kept in All Saints Parish.

St. Giles's Ch., in Abingdon St., has been enlarged and reseated (1855). The chancel is E. E. with a Dec. E. window inserted. There is a Norm. west door: and lower portions of the tower are Norm., but the greater part of the church is Perp.; and there is a south chapel of this date, containing an altar-tomb for one of the Gobion family. The central tower fell in 1613, and was then rebuilt, nearly from the roof upwards.

St. John's Hospital (founded in 1137, by Walter, Archdeacon of Northampton, for poor and infirm persons), near the Midland Railway Station, will probably be destroyed, since the site has been bought by the Railway Company. The hospital, in which 7 old women are now housed and supported, will be rearranged on a new scheme, and new buildings will be erected. (A very interesting house, perhaps as early as the reign of John, which belonged to this hospital, was pulled down in order to construct the Midland Rly. Station.) The existing (1875) building is Dec.; and consists of what was the common hall, now fitted with cells, and two great loft-like rooms above it, once serving as dormitories. There is a late Dec. chapel, with a Perp. W. window. In the E. window are some fragments of very good Perp. stained glass, and there are more in a window on the staircase, including a curious head of St. John (?) as a pilgrim, possibly illustrating the story of his appearance in that form to the Confessor. Many of those who fell in the battle of Northampton (Delapré) were buried in the little ch.-yard attached to the chapel. (Humphrey, D. of Buckingham, was buried in the ch. of the Friars Minors, of which no trace remains.)

The ruins of the *Castle* of Northampton (at the bottom of Gold St., and close to the Castle Station) are very scanty; but should be visited for the sake of the site, and of the history connected with it. The story of the Castle is in reality that of Northampton, and has already (see *ante*) been given. After it passed into the hands of the king (about 1174), it is frequently mentioned in the Pipe Rolls as the "turris de Northampton;" and there are many payments for repairing portions of it. A survey was made

of its condition in 1253; when it was found that the park was "decently kept in vert, venison, and pasture," that many works had recently been done in the Castle by the sheriff, but that the great wall still needed much repair. A survey was again taken in 1323, when the whole Castle was evidently in a most decayed condition. It was probably never restored to its former state, and portions of it were used as prisons for a lengthened period. The Castle stood on the high bank of the Nen, by which river it was defended on the W. On the other sides there was a deep fosse filled from the river. The position is fine and open, with the Abbeys of St. James (on the opposite hill, see *post*), and Delapré in sight, and the town of Northampton on the east. The park, which was extensive, ranged on either side of the river. It is now difficult to make out the ground-plan of the Castle; but there seem to have been, as usual, an outer and an inner ward, with a keep at the N.E. end of the latter. The main enceinte, or boundary wall, was flanked at intervals with circular towers. Portions of this wall remain, and retain ashlar work here and there, on the side facing the river. The lower part of one of the bastions or circular towers also exists: and near it is a postern (a pointed Dec. arch) opening toward the Nen. Within the area the shaft of a pier —perhaps of the chapel or of the kings' hall—is visible. The main wall and the towers are perhaps temp. Hen. III.

Since 1850 there has been a R. Cath. bishop of Northampton. The "pro-Cathedral" opened in 1864, is from designs by *A. W. N. Pugin*. It contains some stained glass by *Hardman*, panel paintings by *Hess*; and a large crucifix carved in veined ivory by a Spanish artist.

Of the *Priory of St. Andrew*—founded apparently, certainly largely endowed, for Cluniac monks, in 1084, by the first Earl Simon of Senlis—there are no remains. It stood on the N. side of the town. Nearly all the churches in Northampton belonged to this abbey, which was at first dependent on the house of S. Marie de Charité, in France, but was made denizen in the 6th year of Ed. IV. At the Dissolution, the annual net income was 263*l.* 7*s.*, and the house was then in an unprosperous state.

The *Abbey of St. James'*, at the end of the western suburb, beyond the bridge, was founded by William Peverel (called natural son of the Conqueror) before the year 1112, for Augustinian canons. Its annual income at the Dissolution was 213*l.* 17*s.* The demesnes lie on both sides of the road leading to Banbury; and on the l. much of the enclosing wall (E. Eng. ?) remains.

College Street is so named from a college incorporating the various guilds of the town, founded by Hen. VI., and placed under the government of a custos and 16 priests. It was bound to pray for the "good estate" of Margaret of Anjou and her son Prince Edward; and for Henry himself after his death.

On the Billing Road is a large *Convent* (Notre Dame) of Belgian nuns, who have a good school. Beyond is the *School of Art*—an indifferent building—and then the Northamptonshire *Orphanage*. Here also are the *County Infirmary*, large and airy, with a pleasant garden; and an *Asylum*, self-supporting and well-managed. This suburb on the Billing Road is by far the pleasantest part of Northampton. *Becket's Well*, near the Infirmary, opposite an open field, has a little modern Gothic structure above it. There is no apparent reason for connecting it with the famous archbishop. The *County Gaol* in St. Giles's Square, was rebuilt at a cost of 25,000*l.*, in 1846. The new *Cattle Market*, on the S.

side of the town, opened in 1873, is large and well arranged.

In the immediate neighbourhood of Northampton the tourist will, of course, visit the *Eleanor Cross*, on the Hardingstone Road, about 1 m. S. of the town. *Upton* (2 m.), and *Dallington*, 1½ m., may also be described here. Very interesting day's excursions from Northampton may be made by rly., and most of the places mentioned in the following routes are thus accessible. A delightful expedition may be arranged so as to comprise Althorp, Great Brington, and Holdenby (Rte. 7); and another day should certainly be given to Yardley Chase, and may perhaps include Castle Ashby (see Rte. 2).

(a) *Queen Eleanor's Cross*, which stands on high ground S. of the town, which it overlooks, is the most perfect and important of the beautiful crosses raised by the care of Edward I., at each place where the body of Queen Eleanor rested on its way from Harby in Nottinghamshire (where she died, in the house of Richard de Weston, Nov. 28, 1290) to the tomb in Westminster Abbey. "Living," wrote the King to the Abbot of Cluny, "I loved her dearly, and dead, I shall never cease to love her." Wherever the procession halted at night, the bier was set down, and "the King's chancellor and the great men present" marked a fitting place where a cross might afterwards be erected. The bier was then conveyed into the ch. where it was to remain during the night. Only three of these crosses remain, —at Northampton, at Waltham, and at Geddington; and of these the Waltham cross has been so completely "restored" that it is really a new structure. The cross at Northampton has been cared for sufficiently to preserve it from destruction; and certain defacements have been removed which it underwent in the reign of Queen Anne; when a sun-dial was placed on each of the sides, a cross, 3 ft. in height, was added on the top, and the whole was "repaired" "by order of the bench of justices." (An inscription on the W. side recorded all this; and from an engraving in Brydges' 'Northamptonshire,' it appears that a pair of stocks was placed under the cross, "for the terror of evil-doers." The Geddington cross (see Rte. 10) remains untouched. There were certainly crosses at Lincoln, Stony Stratford, Woburn, Dunstable, St. Alban's, Cheap, and Charing, all of which have perished. It is said also that crosses were erected at Grantham and at Stamford. The architect of this cross at Northampton, as well as of those at Stony Stratford, Woburn, Dunstable, and St. Alban's, was a certain John de Bello or de la Battaile; and Alexander of Abingdon, and William of Ireland were employed on the statues. These crosses were all built between 1291 and 1294.

The Northampton cross, standing on the l. side of the highway, is raised on 8 steps and a base. It is octagonal, and now consists of three portions, the lower filled with canopied tracery and shields of arms; the second containing four statues of Queen Eleanor, under rich canopies; and the third rising with canopied panelling and rich finials. The uppermost portion, above this, has been broken off, and it is now quite uncertain in what manner the whole design—one of the most beautiful in the whole range of Gothic architecture—was completed. All the details are full of grace and delicacy. The foliage is throughout natural, and nothing can exceed the beauty of that in the upper tier above the figures of the queen. A cornice of open roses, with leaves supporting a cresting, forms the base on which these figures rest. Small open books on desks are

placed in the alternate panels of the lowest division. The statues of the queen vary in arrangement and position, but all are most graceful, and there can be no doubt that they give us the true "presentment" of Eleanor of Castile. The character and expression are the same as in the effigy on her tomb at Westminster. The whole work is of a grey stone, but little weather-tinted, and encroached on in one part by a few sprays of ivy. The freshness of the sculpture is remarkable. Unhappily, the cross is covered, as high as possible, with "names ignoble, born to be forgot," the idle work of those who are without reverence for the monument or for the noble queen whom it commemorates.

The view from the Cross shows well the position of Northampton, in the valley of the Nen. Below, to the rt., is seen, among woods, *Delapre Abbey*, the modern house of J. A. S. Bouverie, Esq. The abbey, on the site of which it stands, was founded for Cluniac nuns by the second Simon of Senlis, Earl of Northampton. He endowed it with many churches, including that of Fotheringhay, and the annual revenue at the suppression was 119*l.* 9*s.* It was, no doubt, in the chapel of this convent that the bier of Queen Eleanor rested for a night. The modern house contains little of interest. In the meadows beyond the abbey the army of Henry VI. entrenched themselves before the battle of 1460, and were driven back on the river (see *ante*).

A causeway will have been observed by the side of the road from Northampton, perfect in the lower ground near the town. This was constructed at the same time as the cross, and cost 40*l.* and 60 marks. It was executed "for the benefit of Eleanor's soul;" that is, partly as a work of charity, and partly to enable those who desired, to reach the cross more easily, where they might pray for the queen's welfare.

The village of *Hardingstone* is about 1 m, beyond the cross, on a road branching l. The *Church*, restored 1869, has E. Eng. portions, the most interesting being the tower arch, which is built of irregularly sized stones, alternately varying in colour. There is a large oval camp, called *Hunsborough*, in the parish (lying due W. of the cross), with single ditch and double vallum. It stands on high ground, commanding wide views.

(b) *Upton Hall* (Gervase Wright, Esq.) is 2 m. from Northampton, on the Daventry Road. A shoemaking suburb is passed through before ascending the hill, from which there is a good view of the town. The hall has been much refaced and decorated, temp. Anne, but contains part of a wooden roof of the 14th cenly., well worked and designed (this is hidden above the roof of the present saloon). From an early period it belonged to the Samwells, one of whom, Jane Samwell, married Sir Sapcote Harington, and became the mother, in 1611, of James Harington, the once well-known author of the 'Oceana,' born here in January, 1611. His portrait remains in the house, besides a replica of the portrait at Woburn of Lucy Harington, Countess of Bedford. Here is also an interesting picture of Sir John Finett, Master of the Ceremonies to James I., with a view of the Thames in the distance. The little church adjoining was originally Norm., but Dec. windows have been inserted. There is a tablet for Harington of the 'Oceana,' who was buried in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, in 1677, and a monument with an edifying inscription for Sir Thos. Samwell, who, in 1745, "when a vile crew of lawless wretches scattered the flames of rebellion into the very heart of this country," "accepted of a com-

mission" in one of the principal regiments raised for the Government. (The *Church* of *Kislingbury*, 1½ m. beyond Upton, l. of the road, is mainly Dec., with a very beautiful E. window (flowing). The tower and spire are somewhat earlier. The piers of the nave are unusually lofty, with moulded capitals. The arches sharply pointed. Altogether, this church deserves a visit.)

(c) At *Dallington* is a small E. Eng. *Ch.*, perhaps built by Geoffry de Lucy, the first of nine generations of that family who held the manor. It was afterwards the property of R. Raynsford, one of Charles I.'s judges, who did not sign the king's death-warrant, but was imprisoned in the Tower for life, and died there in 1667. His son, Sir Rich. Raynsford, became Ch. Justice of England in 1676, d. 1679, and is buried in Dallington Church, beneath a gorgeous monument of black and white marble. The present *Dallington Hall* (occupied by S. Sharpe, Esq.) was built by Sir Joseph Jekyll, Master of the Rolls, who at his death, in 1745, left his fortune for the reduction of the national debt. A quantity of fragments of Roman and British pottery was found in this parish in the bank of a railway cutting, and probably indicate the site of a small manufactory of rough ware, inferior, both in material and workmanship, to the Castor pottery. Similar pottery has been discovered within the enclosure of Northampton Castle, associated with Saxon and Norman fragments. It is very remarkable that the same manufacture, the same materials, make, and patterns, continued all along through so many centuries and so many changes. (At *Duston*, a little S.W. of Dallington, Samian fragments, bronze relics, paving tesseræ, coins ranging from Nerva to the sons of Constantine the Great, and skeletons have been found, marking probably the site of a Roman villa, which must have been in existence for at least 150 years.)

(d) 2 m. from Northampton, on the Wellingborough Road, is the little Trans.-Norm. and Perp. *Ch.* of *Weston Favell*, picturesquely situated among fine trees and pleasant woodland scenery. (The tower is throughout Trans.-Norm.) Here is a curious piece of needlework, wrought by a Lady Holman, in 1698, and representing the Passover. Above are the words "Gloria Deo;" below, "Weston Favell, December, 1698." James Hervey, author of the once well-known 'Meditations,' was rector of Weston Favell, and lies buried here, within the altar rails. He was a native of the neighbouring parish of Hardingstone. In his day, and after the publication of his books, there was a throng of pilgrims to the place, and we are told that "Weston Favell was almost as well known as London."

At *Kingsthorpe*, 1½ m. on the Leicester road, is a church with Norm. portions, restored 1863, but of no very great interest.

ROUTE 2.

NORTHAMPTON TO PETERBOROUGH.

London and North-Western Rly.

This line of railway, which follows for the most part the valley of the *Nen* (the name is said to be a corruption of "Aune," or "Avon," but this seems more than doubtful), will enable the tourist to visit, from its different stations, some of the most important and interesting of the many fine churches for which Northamptonshire is famous. "The Saxon

tower of Earls Barton; the complete E. Eng. church of Warmington, with its wooden vaulting and exquisite capitals; the unique octagon of Stanwick; the lanterns of Lowick, Irthlingborough, and Fotheringhay; the spires of Raunds, Rushden, and Irchester; Finedon, perfect in the best style; Strixton, the model of an earlier one; the fine steeple of Oundle, are but selections out of a line of churches, some but little inferior, terminating in the grand W. front and more solemn interior of Peterborough Cathedral."—*Canon James.* The Nen, N. of Northampton, is a deep-flowing stream, full of windings and reaches, with a broad level of pasture and corn land on either side of it. From this level, both rt. and l., rises a ridge of high ground, always raised above the overflowing of the river, which was frequently destructive before the drainage of the North Level of the Fens, and the construction by Telford and Rennie, in 1830, of a new "Nen outfall," carried through the sandbanks into the deep water of the Wash. On the ridge, thus safe from inundation, were founded some of the most ancient settlements in the county. The course of the Nen was one of the high roads into the centre of England; and although no main Roman way seems to have been driven through the valley, there was a small camp at Irchester, besides many villas; and coins have been found everywhere.

"Terrace gravels" occur on the hilly sides of the Nen valley (toward Kingsthorpe, and northward in the direction of Peterborough), identical with the gravel in the valley of the Ouse near Bedford. Remains of enormous mammalia have been found in them, including 2 species of elephant: one of which must have been of great size. An enormous tusk, 10 ft. long and 2 ft. in circumference at the base, found at Orton Longueville, near Peterborough, is preserved by the Marchioness of Huntly.

Leaving Northampton from the Bridge St. Station, we first stop at

Billing Road Stat., about 2½ m. Here the churches of Little and Great Billing are close at hand. That of *Little Billing* is indifferent Perp., and is only interesting for its remarkable *font* (fig. by Van Voorst), which is very rude Norman, shaped like a tall jar, and bearing an inscription (which seems to be imperfect) earlier than that on the font of Keysoe, in Bedfordshire (see *Handbook for Beds.*). It runs: "Wilberhtus artifex atq. Cementarius hunc fabricavit. Quisquis suum venit mergere corpus procul dubio capit." This font, of course, belonged to a church much more ancient than the present. The manor of Little Billing belonged for a considerable period to the Longuevilles, and the remains of their house (early 16th centy.) are still conspicuous in the village. The *Church* of *Great Billing* (restored 1867) is of more interest. It seems to have been rebuilt in early Dec. times, and the piers and caps. of the nave, of that period, are somewhat unusual. A single Norm. cap. and base shows that there had been an earlier ch. The tower, early Dec., is of three stories, and was originally surmounted by a spire, which was destroyed by lightning in 1795. The existing parapet belonged to an old house of the Earls of Thomond, taken down in 1776. *Billing Hall* (V. D. H. Cary-Elwes, Esq.) occupies the site of this house. (The pedestrian may cross the Nen by a bridge a little above Little Billing, and return to Northampton by Little and Great Houghton,—distance about 5 m. *Little Houghton* stands high, and commands a good view over the Nen valley. The ch., except the tower, has been rebuilt (*Buckeridge*, archit.) in early Dec. style, and the arcade is copied, to some extent, from a

Dec. arch opening to the tower. This is late E. Eng., with an arcade round the first story above the roof. W. of the ch.-yd. are the moat and foundations of a manor-house, which long remained in the family of Zouch. On the rt. bank of the Nen, in this parish, and close to an ancient ford, is *Clifford Hill*, a circular mount, surrounded by a deep ditch. Roman coins have been found here, and the mount commands a very wide view. Leland describes it as "a greate round hille as a bullewark of warre, yn the medes by Northampton town." The church of *Great Houghton* was, perhaps, built toward the end of the last century, and is of the worst type; the tower has a spire, supported on an octagonal erection, with pillars.)

The next station serves for both *Earl's Barton* and *Castle Ashby*. (Both places are of the highest interest, and may be comprised in the same day's excursion if the tourist does not proceed beyond Castle Ashby. A very delightful round, however, may be taken from Northampton to Yardley Chase, thence proceeding to Yardley Hastings and to Easton Maudit, and visiting Castle Ashby on the homeward route, when the Nen will be crossed at Cogenhoe. This will be a long day's expedition, and indeed Yardley Chase is alone sufficient, with its venerable oaks, to occupy the artist for some hours. All these places are here described.)

(a) The celebrated church of *Earl's Barton*, on the l. bank of the Nen, is 1¼ m. from the station. The pleasant, tree-shadowed road passes an old mill on the river, probably the "Earl's mill." The manor was held by the Earls of Northamptonshire before the Conquest, and afterwards by the Earls of Huntingdon, passing to them through the 2nd marriage of the daughter of Judith and Waltheof. It now belongs to the Marquis of Northampton. The church, with its remarkable tower, fronts the road in approaching, and stands on high ground, which has been partly scarped, and which was probably the "motte" or mound of an old English "strong" house. A deep fosse, still perfect, encloses the mound and ch.-yd. on the N. side. The tower of the ch. is, of course, its most interesting portion. The rest is Norm., Dec., and E. Eng. work, all deserving careful attention. The body of the ch. has undergone some restoration at the hands of Mr. Slater. The tower is as yet happily untouched. By common consent it has been termed Saxon, and there can be little doubt but that it was in existence before Simon of Senlis became lord of the district. It gives at once the strongest impression of antiquity, massive and sombre, built of the rudest rubble; whilst the angle-quoins of long-and-short work, and the lines and bands of stone carried all over the surfaces, are of the native oolite, full of shells (compare *Barnack*, Rte. 3, which is of similar character). The rough stonework has been covered with plaster, which is peeling off. In the lowest stage, S., is a balustred window, with a cross at the side; and the openings for light are cross-shaped. The western door, with its capitals (if they are so to be called), the round arches and triangles of stone along the sides, and the ranges of balustred lights in the topmost story (under the battlement, which is a late addition), are all characteristic of this "Romanesque" work, and all occur in other churches older than the Conquest. The stone banding has been regarded as an imitation of wooden construction, or "stone carpentry;" but, however this may be, the tower is one of those which were built in the 11th centy., as in the 7th, "juxta Romanorum morem." Their builders "followed Roman models, not only by some vague tradition, but by a conscious imitation of the buildings, whether of the

Eternal City itself, or of the hardly less renowned cities of Lombardy and Tuscany." Mr. E. A. Freeman has pointed out that towers like this of Earl's Barton—tall, square, hard, unbuttressed, with the mid-wall shafts of their windows, and their rude enrichment of square strips and long-and-short work—occur on the Continent in groups, as in the heart of the Pyrenees, gathering round the striking minster of St. Aventin, in the Burgundian abbey of St. Maurice, built 1014, and in the great Swabian abbey of Schaffhausen. Towers of the same type occur in every part of Germany, and the banks of the Main and the Alpine pass from Innsbrück to Trent are set thick with them. "So close a likeness in such distant spots could hardly be the result of accident: it could hardly be the result of copying from one another. Earl's Barton and St. Aventin were not likely to seek their models at Schaffhausen, and Schaffhausen was still less likely to seek its models either at Earl's Barton or at St. Aventin. But all roads lead alike to and from Rome . . . . The likeness among the various forms of Romanesque architecture answers to the likeness among the various dialects of the Romance speech, and is to be accounted for in the same way . . . . The smaller and ruder examples of Italian towers are identical with those in our own land. There are towers at Verona and at Lincoln which might change places without either seeming to be in a strange land; and if Schaffhausen and St. Maurice seem like glorified forms of our own rude Saxon towers, the great St. Zeno seems like a glorified form of Schaffhausen and St. Maurice."—*E. A. Freeman* ('Fort. Rev.,' Oct. 1872. See also, on the "Hist of the Romanesque," Freeman's 'Norm. Conquest,' vol. v., ch. 26.)

The body of the ch. is of various dates, Norm., E. Eng, Dec. and Perp. The S. portal is Norm., and recedes in 3 orders, much enriched, one having the bird's beak ornament. The nave arcade is Dec., the piers octangular on the S. side; on the N. shafted, and graceful. A pointed arch, with billet-moulding, opens to the tower; the squared piers seem Norm., and have been crushed by the weight above them There is a Perp. clerestory. The aisle windows are all late Dec. A Norman arcade lines the walls of the long and narrow chancel, the arches enriched with zigzag. On the S. side the arcade rises for sedilia in 3 arches, and has been cut through for a window, below. On the N. side a modern vestry has been built with wide arch, open to the chancel, and a fireplace and chimney-piece visible through it. The E. window is a lofty E. Eng. triplet, under a containing arch, with side shafts. Some of the old corbel-heads found in restoring the battlement of the chancel have been used for supporting the vestry roof.

It is at once evident that the tower was a strong place of defence. The view from its summit, and from the ch.-yd. below, across the Nen valley, is wide and striking: Castle Ashby is in full sight, as are the churches of Grendon, Easton Maudit, and Bozeat.

(b) Returning to the station we proceed to Castle Ashby, which lies about 2 m. distant, on the high ground above the rt. bank of the river. Except perhaps that of Rockingham Castle, the position of *Castle Ashby* (Marquis of Northampton) is finer than that of any other great house in the county. Nearly all the Northamptonshire houses stand low. From the terrace in front of Castle Ashby a wide view is commanded over great part of the valley of the Nen, and the opposite heights, more wooded than usual, marked by the towers and spires of many churches, and alive with fleeting lights and the winding river. There is a fore-

ground of park, full of groups of fine trees; but this home park is less interesting than the wilder thickets of Yardley Chase, which is only separated from it by the line of the Bedford Road. The *house* of Castle Ashby is not usually shown. The *gardens* are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. *Yardley Chase* is always accessible.

There was a small castle here, which Leland describes as "now clene down, and made a septum for beasts," of which the only remaining vestige is a well, lined with solid masonry, close below the terrace on which stands the present house. This castle represented the manor house, "crenellated" by Walter de Langton, Bp. of Coventry and Lichfield, 34th Ed. I., and at that time lord of the manor. The existing house, which now encloses a quadrangle, was begun by the 1st Lord Compton, in the reign of Elizabeth, and the eastern corner, with the towers and much of the interior of the quadrangle, are of this date. The Elizabethan house consisted of a centre and two projecting wings. Inigo Jones added a façade containing a chapel and long gallery—thus forming a fourth side to the courtyard. All this portion remains. The whole group of buildings is very picturesque; and the use of the lettered balustrade, rare in England, adds much to the effect. This is formed by the words "Nisi Dominus ædificaverit," &c. (Psalm cxxvii., verses 1, 2); and the earlier example has been happily followed in recent works here, as in the balustrade of the garden, and the ornaments of the gates and lodges, the latter bearing the motto "Dominus custodiat introitum" (and nearer the house, 'exitum') tuum" (see *post*). These inscriptions are also on the battlement outside and inside the façade of Inigo Jones. (The house is fully described and figured in Campbell's 'Vitruvius Britannicus').

Castle Ashby has been in the hands of the present family since the reign of Hen. VIII., when it was bought with other estates, from the 3rd Earl of Kent, by Sir William Compton, the representative of an ancient house long settled at Compton Winyates in Warwickshire. Sir William was high in office under King Henry, and commanded the rearguard at Tournay. His son died under age; but left, by a daughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury, a son named Henry who in the eighth year of Elizabeth became the first *Baron Compton*. His eldest son and successor was created *Earl of Northampton*. The second Earl, Spencer, was a brave and distinguished royalist, and fell, surrounded by the enemy, in the battle of Hopton Heath, 1643, a loss, says Clarendon, "for which a greater victory had been an unequal recompense." His son the third Earl also did good service at this time, especially by the relief of Banbury. Their descendant was created *Marquis of Northampton* in 1812. The present is the 4th Marquis and 12th Earl.

There are some interesting *pictures* at Castle Ashby. In the *great hall* (rebuilt, or at least modernised, by Inigo Jones), among other portraits, is a large picture by *West*, of the 8th Earl of Northampton, with his Countess, son and daughter. This was the earl who took so active a part in the "spendthrift election" as it was called; that for the borough of Northampton, in 1768. "Lords Halifax, Northampton, and Spencer pitted their candidates against each other, being severally Osborn, Rodney, and Howe. The polling lasted fourteen days, but the canvassing had begun long before; and although the number of real electors did not exceed 930, 1149 votes were given. Horton, Castle Ashby, and Althorp were thrown open to all voters, and when they had drained the cellars of Horton of all the old port, and Lord

Halifax had to place his claret before them, they declared that they would never vote for a man who gave them sour port, and went over in a body to Castle Ashby. The election was referred to a scrutiny of the House of Commons, which was then a committee of the whole House, and for six weeks during the inquiry sixty covers were daily laid at Spencer House for members, whose names were taken down. It resulted in the numbers being equal, and was finally decided by a toss, Lord Spencer winning, and nominating a man out in India. It is said to have cost Lord Spencer 100,000*l.*, and each of the other lords 150,000*l.* each—incredible sums, if they are to be doubled to express the present value. Lord Northampton cut down his trees and sold his furniture at Compton Winyates, went abroad for the rest of his life, and died in Switzerland. There is a sealed box at Castle Ashby marked 'Election Papers,' which no one of the present generation has had the courage to open."—*Rev. Canon James.* In the *great saloon*, called *King William's Dining Room*, in honour of William III., who was entertained here in 1695, by the 4th Earl, is a fine chimney-piece, dated 1601, and brought from Sir John Spencer's house at Canonbury. It is of carved wood, with figures of Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Faith, Hope, and Charity. The very fine ceiling, of the same date, was erected it is said by his daughter, wife of the 1st Earl of Northampton. The following are the most important pictures: Spencer Compton, second Earl of Northampton, killed at Hopton Heath, Staffordsh., March 19, 1643 (see *ante*), a very fine portrait by *Janssen*. The first Earl, William, who built much of the present house. He received his earldom from Jas. I. in 1618. Henry, Lord Compton, temp. Eliz. (This picture has been engraved in *Lodge*. He sat as a peer on the trial of Queen Mary of Scotland, and began to build the existing house.) A remarkable and powerful picture said to represent the Duke of Buckingham after his murder by Felton, and assigned to *Vandyck*. Sir John Talbot, 1st Earl of Shrewsbury, the great soldier who was baffled at the siege of Orleans by Joan of Arc, and who fell with his son in the battle at Châtillon, July 20, 1453, aged 80. This is the Talbot of Shakespeare's 'Henry VI.' His body was found on the battle-field by his herald, who had served him forty years, and who, taking off his tabard, flung it over his dead master. There is a replica of this picture in the Heralds' College. Margaret Beauchamp, Countess of Salisbury, wife of John Talbot, died 1468. This is a portrait of the same character as the former, stiff and hard, but of the highest interest, since they are among the earliest portraits in this country. A fine bust of Spencer Perceval, killed in the lobby of the House of Commons by Bellingham in 1812, and some superb pieces of modern majolica, should also be noticed. In the *dining-room* are — Mrs. Drummond Smith, by *Romney*; a curious portrait of Anne, Countess of Dorset and Montgomery, painted in 1603, æt. 13; Henry Compton, 6th son of the 2nd earl, who became successively Bishop of Oxford and of London, died 1713; and portraits of the present Marquis and of his wife, the late Marchioness of Northampton, by *Buckner*. Here are also some good cabinet Dutch pictures; three *Gerard Dows* and two *Ostades*. The *library* contains an early Shakespeare, and a copy of Miles Coverdale's Bible, 1535, but no other books calling for special notice here. On the *entrance to the grand staircase*, among other portraits, are a full-length of Bp. Compton, and one of the 3rd Earl, d. 1681; and on the wall over the staircase is the 1st Marquis, with his son, by *Copley*. The tapestries here, illustrative of the Deluge, are by Paul Nievwen-

hove. There are many family portraits in the *China Room*, and the *Dutch Wedding Room* is so called from the principal piece of tapestry which hangs on its walls, and represents the festivities of a wedding. At the W. corner of the ground-floor is a panelled room, painted green, with trophies and other ornaments in green and gold. The ceiling, engraved in Robinson, is good; and over the chimney-piece are the arms of Spencer Lord Northampton, and his wife, with palm branches. Where was once a window, a recess has been formed, with a place of concealment above it. The whole may possibly have been Inigo Jones's work. There is some very rich and peculiar Italian needlework in the *state bedroom*, and some fine Italian tapestry in other apartments. In the house is an important collection of Etruscan vases. Among other relics also are preserved here the *Clephane horn*, of ivory, perhaps of the 11th centy., and very curious, and the *iron hand and arm* made by some ingenious "armourer" to supply the loss sustained by a knight of the Clephanes in the battle of Largs, 1263. These relics came to Castle Ashby by the marriage of the second marquis with the eldest daughter of Major-General Douglas Maclean Clephane. (The iron hand has been more than once referred to and described by Sir Walter Scott, whose friendship with the house of Maclean Clephane is commemorated in Lockhart's Life).

The new *flower garden*, on the S. side of the house, is of very great beauty, and is one of the best examples of "bedding out," the design being not geometrical, but flowing. Looking down on it, when the beds are in full blaze of colour, the effect resembles that of the richest stained glass. There are some excellent vases and balustrades of terra-cotta, from the works of Blashfield at Stamford—the colour especially good. The balustrades form inscriptions, one referring to the late Marchioness of Northampton, another with the words "Consider the lilies of the field." The wall of the *kitchen garden*, rising at intervals into a sort of crow step, and thus breaking the regularity, has been designed by *Godwin;* and here is a large and striking conservatory, with much architectural character, built from the combined design of Sir Digby Wyatt and the present Marquis. The *Pinetum*, with some very fine specimens, is (1875) of about thirty years' growth. There are in the grounds some very large cedars, one of which, planted in 1760, has been much shattered, but is still a most picturesque tree.

Very near the house is the small but very interesting *Church* of Castle Ashby, with a Norm. door on the N. side (figured in the 'Glossary'), a Dec. N. aisle, and a Perp. nave, S. aisle, and chancel. The whole has been restored by *Street*, who placed new roofs throughout. The pulpit, a very good design, is supposed to be by *Inigo Jones*. At the W. end of the nave is placed an "Angel of the Resurrection," by *Tenerani*, with trumpet; below is the inscription, "Marmoris hoc sculpti eloquens silentium spe futuri Patri Carissimo dicavit filius N. d. 1851." It thus forms a memorial of the 2nd Marquis. Under an arch in the N. aisle is a monument designed by *Marochetti* for the wife of the Hon. F. L. Gower, 2nd daughter of the 2nd Marquis, a very graceful figure in rest. In a wall-recess above, well designed by a pupil of Scott, is placed a sculptured angel. The monument of Lady Northampton, d. 1830, is by *Tenerani;* that of Lord Northampton (1st Marquis), d. 1828, is by *Blore*. The ch. also contains some modern stained glass, a cross-legged effigy in chain-mail, which may perhaps be that of David de Esseby (Ashby), living in 1265, and

the large *brass* of a rector, William de Ermine, d. 1401, in a cope, with figures of saints. There is a very fine yew in the ch.-yard, which is much overshadowed by trees. The monuments of Wilhelm von Normann, "born at Castle Ashby, 1830, died in the hands of the Chinese, 1860;" of Alexander Sanders, husband of Ann Draper, d. 1818, queen of the gipsies; and some beautiful ironwork round a tomb under the yew-tree, said to be that of the wife of a blacksmith, by whom the iron was wrought—should all be noticed.

Very fine gates of Italian ironwork, brought from Padua and set in piers of terra-cotta, richly decorated with the monogram, arms, and motto of Lord Northampton, by *Wyatt*, open from the lawn adjoining the house to an avenue, which, extending about 1 m. to the entrance from the Bedford Road, has been continued by the present Marquis in a direct line for 2 m. farther, into the heart of *Yardley Chase*. This is a very extensive level tract of woodland, full of green "ridings" (as the turf roads are called), open lawns, and wood of various ages, some of the chief roads having been planted all along the borders with spruce and Scotch fir. The visitor to the Chase should make eventually (however wide a circuit in the wood he may first choose to traverse) for the group of venerable oaks, among which is the tree known as "Cowper's." (It is best to inquire at the lodge on the Bedford Road for the proper way to these oaks, which is not to be found very readily.) The Chase itself, a surviving relic of those many tracts of forest which once abounded in Northamptonshire, affords pleasant wandering through the paths and alleys of the jay-haunted wood. The most ancient and noticeable oak-trees are near a farm on the S.E. outskirt, and a short drive through fields leads thence into the high road very near the village of Yardley Hastings. There are 3 of these oaks in an open lawn, fringed by younger growth; the largest and most shattered is that called "Cowper's," and to it is attached the following notice: "Out of respect to the memory of the poet Cowper, the Marquis of Northampton is particularly desirous of preserving this oak. Notice is hereby given that any persons defacing or otherwise injuring it will be prosecuted according to law." The tree is a most picturesque ruin, wonderfully suggestive of great age. From the hollow trunk (about 30 ft. in circumference at a yard from the ground), in which many persons may stand at once, rise 2 or 3 bare limbs, and as many more bearing fresh green leaves. It is not lofty, and the whitened inner wood contrasts sharply with the lichens and knots of the portion that preserves its bark. This is the tree (at least it has always been so regarded) on which Cowper moralises in his unfinished poem of the 'Yardley Oak,' found among his papers, and not published until after his death. (The oak, it may be remarked, is not more than 3 m. distant from Olney and Weston Underwood, and the greater part of the walk, which the poet may often have taken, might lie through a portion of the Chase.) He is not quite accurate when he describes it as—

"Survivor sole, and hardly such, of all
That once lived here, thy brethren, at thy birth,"

for it still has a brace of companions, and there are others near at hand; but the whole expression of the tree has been transferred to the poet's verses;—

"Thou wast a bauble once; a cup and ball
Which babes might play with; and the thievish jay,
Seeking her food, with ease might have purloined
The auburn nut that held thee, swallowing down
Thy yet close-folded latitude of boughs
And all thy embryo vastness at a gulp."

In passing from this group of oaks toward Yardley Hastings, two very large oak-trees, known as "Gog and Magog," are seen l. near a farm. They are much shattered, but well deserve the artist's attention. This whole neighbourhood is indeed forest ground, and the distant views are all woodland.

Yardley Hastings, on the high road from Northampton to Bedford, is a large, scattered village, extending over broken ground and interspersed with trees. (At the *Rose and Crown*, a hostelry which recalls some of Dickens's descriptions, simple accommodation may be had by the artist who cares to study among the woods of this district, which he will find full of good subjects.) The church and the remains of the manor-house here should be visited. Yardley belonged to the Earls of Northampton before the Conquest, and passed with the earldom of Huntingdon which the daughter of Waltheof and Judith carried by her second marriage to David, brother of King Alexander of Scotland. It came at last to Ada, daughter of David, Earl of Huntingdon, who died 1219. She married Henry of Hastings, and Yardley continued in this great house (which gave its name to the manor)—Lords of Bergavenny and Earls of Pembroke—till it passed by marriage with an heiress to Reginald de Grey of Ruthen, whose descendant, Richard, Earl of Kent, sold it to Sir William Compton, ancestor of the Marquis of Northampton, the present possessor. The *Church*, dedicated to St. Andrew (perhaps an indication of the old Scottish connection, though 2 parts of the tithes belonged to the priory of St. Andrew, in Northampton), is for the most part Dec. of more than one period, except the massive tower, which is, perhaps, Norman. The main arcade is Early Dec., as is the clerestory. All the nave windows are square-headed Dec., and an internal string-course runs along at their base. Remark a fine bracket with oak-leaves at the end of the S. aisle. The chancel has late Dec. windows (E. and 2 S.), and rich, shattered sedilia of the same period. In the N. wall, however, are traces of round-headed lights, and it is therefore evident that the original Norm. wall is here retained. There are Norm. lights in the belfry-story of the tower, and on the S. front a small round-headed window opens close at the side of the larger. The W. end of the N. aisle is walled off, and serves as a schoolroom and vestry. In the chancel is a memorial for John Wilson, rector from 1649 to 1695, and one of greater interest, for the antiquary and Saxon scholar, Edward Lye, 30 years rector, "vir summæ scientiæ . . . præsertim in linguis et antiquitatibus Septentrionalibus." He was born at Totnes, in Devonshire, in 1694, and died in 1767, æt. 73. His great work, the 'Anglo-Saxon and Gothic Dictionary,' was compiled here at Yardley, but was not published until after his death. "All the Club subscribes," wrote Johnson to Bennet Langton in 1766.

The church was, no doubt, the work of the Lords Hastings, and adjoining it, on the N. side, is the so-called "Castle," a manor-house, which must have been of considerable size and importance. What now remains is a squared building, with portions of arches at either end. On the N. side are 2 good Dec. arches, opening to vaults (?), and on the S. a Dec. window, square-headed, like those in the ch. What we now see is, therefore, a mere fragment, and it is difficult to infer from it what was the general plan. Church and manor-house seem to have been rebuilt about the same time. The situation, with the great Chase spreading round, must have been pleasant enough.

A cross-road from Yardley brings

us in a drive of about 2 m. to *Easton Maudit*, where is a very interesting church, well restored, and not to be neglected by the antiquary, for whom this place should have an especial attraction, since for many years (he was appointed in 1753, and did not resign the living until 1782) the vicarage was the home of Dr. Percy, afterwards Bishop of Dromore, editor of the famous 'Reliques of Ancient Poetry,' the ballad-book which was given to the world in 1765, from Easton Maudit. Shenstone and Garrick were frequent guests here; Johnson, Goldsmith, and others of that well-known society more than once visited Percy here; and although the vicarage has undergone some alteration, it has not been so completely remodelled as to have lost all memorial of that period. (The portrait of Bp. Percy, by *Abbot*, and his correspondence are still preserved at Ecton, near Northampton, by the descendant of the bishop's daughter. The veritable MS. folio from which the 'Reliques' were taken was also long preserved at Ecton; but after the edition of Furnival and Hales had been printed verbatim from it, it was placed in the Library of the British Museum.) At that time there was a large manor-house not far from the church, of which there are now no traces. It belonged to the Longueville Earls of Sussex, and was full of interesting portraits. There was also a large and important library, containing many early printed books and MSS., collected partly by Sir Henry Yelverton in the reign of James I., and partly by another H. Yelverton, the 1st Lord Longueville. Christopher Yelverton bought the manor temp. Eliz. He was a Judge of the Queen's Bench and Speaker of the House of Commons, representing Northamptonshire in Parliament. His son, Sir Henry, was patronised by Car, Earl of Somerset, and by the Duke of Buckingham, was a distinguished lawyer, and became a judge in 1625. His grandson, another Sir H., married Susanna Longueville, daughter and heiress of Lord Grey of Ruthen (see *Bedfordshire*, Rte. 7, *Blunham*). Their eldest son died without issue; the second was created Viscount Longueville by William III., and his eldest son, in 1717, became Earl of Sussex. The name "*Mauduit*" commemorates earlier lords of the manor; the first of these was William Mauduit, Chamberlain of Henry I.

The *Church* contains memorials of Yelvertons and their descendants. It is for the most part Early Dec., with a W. tower and fine spire, connected by flying buttresses, pierced with quatrefoils. The main arcade is very graceful, preserving much of E. Eng. character in the undercut caps. The open tower-arch is somewhat later. The chancel is Early Dec. and has been restored at much cost, with a sculptured reredos and rich marble altar-rail. The *tiling* throughout the ch. calls for special notice, and is unusually successful in harmony and design. The ground tiles are dark-green, and in them are set others of various characters, many marked by a beacon, and the words "Nisi Dominus custodiat," the crest and motto of the noble house of Northampton (the arrangement of the tiles is due to the Rev. Lord Alwyn Compton, who has made the subject his own). Before the chancel-steps is a cross inlaid in the tiling, with inscriptions (preserving the record in the unrestored church) for 3 children of Thos. Percy, D.D., who died between 1770 and 1774. The modern pulpit has very good panels, carved with fruit and flowers. At the end of the N. aisle is the *Yelverton Chapel*. In the centre is the monument, with effigies, of Sir Christopher Yelverton, Elizabeth's Judge and Speaker (see *ante*), d. 1612, and of his wife, Mary Catesby, d. 1611. He wears the red judge's

robe; she has a remarkable head-dress. At the side is the monument of his son, Sir Henry, d. 1629, with effigies of himself and his wife, Margaret Beale, d. 1625. Two venerable bedesmen, in black gowns and white beards, support the elaborate canopy, and an inscription records the many virtues of Sir Henry Yelverton, his "sweetnes of conversation, faithfulnes in friendship, and comelines of person." There are slabs for Longuevilles, and some tattered banners and an achievement for Lord Grey of Ruthen, who died at Oxford in 1643. Theirs is the motto. "Foy en tout," which appears on the escutcheons. Not less interesting is a memorial for Thomas Morton, Bishop of Durham, driven from his see by the calamities of the Civil War. A refuge was afforded to him by more than one family, and he finally removed to the house of Sir Henry Yelverton, where he died, in 1659, in the 95th year of his age, the 44th of his episcopate. He had been successively bishop of Chester and of Lichfield before his translation to Durham in 1632. The inscription on the slab was written by Dr. Barwick, who wrote also a short life of the bishop and preached his funeral sermon. Many of Bp. Morton's MSS. were preserved in the Sussex Library here.

[The *Church* of *Bozeat*, 1½ m. E. of Easton Maudit, on the Wellingborough Road, has an E. Eng. tower, with octagonal broach spire. The body of the ch. is Dec., with Perp. insertions, and a Dec. rood-screen remains.]

Returning to the station at Earl's Barton, the church and village of *Grendon* are passed. The former is mainly Perp., but has two Norm. arches, and some E. Eng. and Dec. portions: the tower is massive and lofty. There is a *brass*, with figures of an unknown lady between two husbands, circ. 1480; and another for John Mortimer, early in the same century. *Grendon Hall*, now a farm-house, belonged to the Comptons, and is ancient. Grendon is one of the villages on high ground, overlooking the Nen valley.

The rly. proceeds on the rt. bank of the river to

Wellingborough Stat. Here the *Midland* line of rly. from Cambridge to Kettering and Market Harborough crosses the rly., whose course we are following. (For this rly. from this place to Market Harborough, see Rte. 12. There is a *Midland Stat.* at Wellingborough.) The Wellingborough Stat. is also known as that for "Irchester Road;" but there is a *Midland* stat. 2½ m. E. at *Irchester* itself. (For Irchester, where the Roman station and the church are the places of interest, see *post.*)

(Close to the rly. are the *Irthlingborough Iron-Works* and the *East End Iron-Works;* and the quarries from which the ore is supplied are near at hand, adjoining the Midland Rly., and extending for some miles in an easterly direction. There can be no doubt but that the ironstone of this county was smelted by the Romans, and continued to be worked until at least the reign of Henry III. But it had quite passed out of use, and there seems to have been little or no knowledge of its existence here until about the year 1840, when, as it is said, a Birmingham traveller saw blocks of it brought to mend the roads near one of the stations. The quarrying and smelting of the ore are rapidly changing the face of great part of Northamptonshire, which, until this re-discovery, had been almost entirely an agricultural county. Its wealth is as rapidly increasing. The beauty of its prospects is not improved. The ore occurs in

the Northampton sands of the lias, irregularly distributed over the county, but forming portions of the same beds which extend across England from the Severn to the Tees (see INTROD., *Geology*). The *Irthlingborough Works* were erected in 1867 by W. Butlin, C.E., who smelted the first piece of Northamptonshire iron-ore. The *East End Iron-Works* date from 1852, in the year before which this first piece of iron had been produced at Mr. Butlin's works in Northampton. "The ore, which is an hydrate, produces on an average 40 per cent. of iron in the blast-furnace; its matrix is chiefly silex. It is easily raised, being close to the surface. Between 500 and 600 men are employed in the works. More than 5000 tons of ore are raised weekly; 4000 tons are sent into Derbyshire and Yorkshire, and the remainder is used for the furnaces. About 450 tons of pig-iron are produced weekly in both works. The iron-ore, in fact, is of the same general character as that quarried in Cleveland, and smelted in the Middlesborough furnaces.")

Wellingborough (*Inn:* the Hind. Pop. in 1871, 9385) is about 1 m. W. of the station, on the hill-slope above the river. The approach from the station is bordered by lime-trees, and is striking. Wellingborough occurs in Domesday as "Wendlesberie" and "Wedlingsberie," and the name is frequently written "Wendlyngburg." This has sometimes led to a confusion with Wendlebury, in Oxfordshire. It seems, therefore, improbable that the chalybeate spring called the "Red Well," ½ m. N.W., can have given name to the town. There is a tradition that Charles I. and Queen Henrietta spent some time in tents erected on the hill-side, for the sake of drinking this water. It is certain, from his journal, that Abp. Laud, in 1626, waited on Queen Henrietta at Wellingborough, but this was at the inn, now pulled down, called the *White Swan*, in the Market-place. It does not appear whether it was the White Swan or the Hind which so grievously tried the nerves and the temper of Horace Walpole. "We lay," he writes in 1763, "at Wellingborough—pray never lie there—the beastliest inn upon earth is there! We were carried into a vast bedchamber, which I suppose is the club-room, for it stunk of tobacco like a justice of the peace! I desired some boiling water for tea; they brought me a sugar-dish of hot water in a pewter plate." Wellingborough is a large market-town, entirely without interest but for its ch., and not too agreeable. Shoemakers abound, and the older trades of woollen and lace making have been entirely abandoned for what has become one of the staple businesses of Northamptonshire. The *Church*, Dec., with some Perp. alterations, is large and imposing, and has been restored throughout. It belonged to the abbey of Crowland from a period long before the Conquest, and so continued until the Dissolution. The tower and spire may, perhaps, be late E. Eng., as seems indicated by the W. doorway. There is a graceful corbel-table round the top of the tower, in the lower walls of which oolite is banded with the local ironstone. The upper part is entirely of oolite. The ch. itself is built throughout of ironstone. The nave, of 4 bays, is Dec.; the chancel (also of 4 bays) Perp. (except the E. window), and the greater part of the windows have been altered in that period. The chancel projects a single bay beyond the wide aisles. (By an arbitration in the 7th year of Richard II., it was determined that the abbot and convent of Crowland were thenceforth to repair the chancel at their own costs, so that the Perp. rebuilding is, no doubt, due to them.) The stone brackets for carrying the ori-

ginal roof of the chancel remain, and in the angles of the E. window (geometrical Dec.) are the winged lion and angel, the symbols of the other two Evangelists having disappeared. The pictorial stained glass in this window commemorates "30 years' ministry of Canon Broughton as vicar." It is by *Taylor* of London, —date, 1871—and is not pleasant. Some good old screen-work divides the choir-aisles from the chancel. The walls of the restored nave have been left rough, in what Horace Walpole calls "their native stonehood"—a questionable proceeding; but the low seats, and the general effect of colour throughout the ch., are good. There is a small projecting chapel E. of the S. door, Perp., with a panelled ceiling, carved with the emblems of Our Lord's Passion. Over the S. door is the monument of "Sergeant Lingar," "Sergeant of the Bakehouse to Queen Elizabeth," d. 1570. The exterior of the very graceful E. window deserves special notice. It has a hollow moulding, with grotesque heads, flowers, and foliage. Above is a canopied niche. At the dripstones of the arch are the angel and eagle; below, at the base, the bull and lion, all winged. The tracery is geometrical, and the date of the window about 1300. The communion-plate was given in 1634 by Sir Paul Pindar, born in Wellingborough, consul and ambassador in Turkey, who contributed very large sums to the restoration and adornment of Old St. Paul's, which had been nearly destroyed by fire during the reign of Elizabeth.

N.W. of the ch. is the *Free School*, founded temp. Edward VI. on the suppression of a guild of the Virgin. Edward Pickering, of Swasey, in Cambridgeshire, gave, as is recorded on a tablet over the door, 130*l.* to the school. On a tablet below are the words "Φιλομαθεσι multum debeo, 1619. Barbaris autem nihil." A schoolmaster was elected in 1687 who professed himself a Dissenter, and obtained a dispensation from King James to hold the school without qualifying according to law. He disappeared after the king's flight, and it was afterwards discovered that he was a Jesuit from St. Omer's.

[The churches of *Irchester*, *Doddington*, and *Strixton*, may best be visited from Wellingborough.

Irchester is best visited from the *station* on the *Midland* rly., 2½ m. E. of Wellingborough. l. of this stat. is the ch. About ¾ m. below the stat. is the site of the Roman encampment. (*Ask for* "*Chester House.*") The ancient name of the "Chester" has been completely lost, and there is no apparent clue to it in the Itineraries. The camp is square, containing about 9 acres. It was walled originally; and on the N. side, towards the river Nen, a road runs along the top of the foundation of the wall. This side is very steep. The area of the castrum when ploughed is found to be full of pieces of pottery, many of Castor ware; and coins of the lower Empire are found in numbers. The most remarkable discovery here, however, is an inscription on a slab "D.M.S. Amicius. Saturn. strator Cos. M.S.F." This is preserved in Chester House. The word "strator" found in several inscriptions signifies the attendant who helped the Emperor to mount his horse.

The *Church* of Irchester is distinguished by one of the best of those spires for which the county is so famous. It is late Dec., and "its great height, the very small size of the squinches connecting it with the square tower, and the slight projection of the spire-lights all combine to render it one of the most elegant and aspiring of its class."—E. A. F. The tracery of the spire-lights is flowing Dec. Remark the rich cornice under the spire, and

the local feature of the use of different coloured courses of stone in the tower. The rest of the ch. is ordinary,—neither very good nor very bad. The E. Eng. priests' door deserves notice. The chancel (E. Eng.) has a graceful piscina and a single sedile. The nave arches are Dec. The font, E. Eng. Some Norm. fragments show that a ch. of that date existed here before the present one.

Dodington is 2 m. S. Strixton is 4 m. on the road to Newport Pagnell. *Dodington* (restored 1871) has an E. Eng. tower, but is otherwise without much interest. A wall-painting of the Crucifixion was found on the S. side of the chancel during the restoration. *Strixton* is thoroughly E. Eng.; and, although small (it has only nave and chancel), is an excellent architectural model. The E. end has triple lancets, with quatrefoils above them, one of which is pierced for light. All the other details are plain and simple. A sexfoil window above the W. door should especially be noticed. The proportions are excellent; and the restoration of 1874 cannot altogether destroy the primitive character of the building.]

Leaving Wellingborough, a small *station* is passed at *Ditchford Bridge*, where the trains stop by signal only. The next is

Higham Ferrers Stat., from which the tourist may visit the churches of H. Ferrers and Rushden, rt., and that of Irthlingborough, l. The spire of Higham Ch. is seen, on the high ground rt. of the station, from which the village is ½ m. distant. The ridge on the rt. bank of the river is here lofty, and "Higham" is rightly named. Immediately l. of the station is *Higham Bridge*, a very fine 13th-centy. (?) structure, with ribbed arches. Remark the deep projecting buttresses. The bridge has been widened on one side; and modern brick arches have been inserted above the old ones. A ladder leads from the bridge to the meadows below, and the tourist should descend it. On one of the buttresses, S., are the arms of Peterborough. The river abounds with jack and bream. (*Staunch* is the local name for a sort of flood-gate which may be seen on different parts of the Nen. It is used for drifting boats, &c., over shallow parts of the river. When dropped, it of course raises the water above it.) *Irthlingborough Church* is about ½ m. beyond Higham Bridge, and is in sight. (See *post.*)

Higham *Mill*, large and substantial, lies on a cut from the Nen, rt., as the hill is ascended toward *Higham Ferrers*. Here the interest is gathered round the remarkable group of buildings which Archbishop Chicheley raised in honour of his birthplace, and in gratitude for his own great fortunes. The church, the college, the cross, the school, and the bede-house all speak of him; and although it was the usual custom for a great prelate to remember in some such manner the place where he was born, there are few examples of so complete an offering. Higham (there is a rough country *Inn*, the Green Dragon) is a small, faded borough, incorporated under Philip and Mary, though it had a mayor and other officers long before. Until the first Reform Bill it sent one member to Parliament, the right of election being "in all the housekeepers who received no alms." The manor was William Peverel's at the Domesday Survey, and passed from that family by inheritance in the first year of King John to William Ferrers, Earl of Derby, whose son and grandson held it, and gave their name to the place. On the attainder of Robert Ferrers in the 50th year of Henry III., this lordship was granted to the king's younger son, Edmund, E. of Lan-

caster, and titular King of Sicily. His son, the great Earl Thomas of Lancaster, was beheaded at Pontefract in 1312; and the escheated manor and castle of Higham were given to Aymer de Valence, E. of Pembroke, but returned to Henry of Lancaster, younger brother of the beheaded earl, on the reversal of the latter's attainder. The son of this Earl Henry possessed Higham, but died, leaving two daughters only, one of whom married John of Gaunt, to whose share of the vast inheritance Higham Ferrers fell. Thus it came to the crown in the person of Henry IV.; and the lordship, with the castle and hundred, were settled, in the 5th year of Henry V., on the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Durham, and some others. In this manner Archbishop Chicheley became in part lord of his native place, and was enabled to benefit and adorn it by his building. His parents had been persons of no great estate; and it is said that the future archbishop was found by William of Wykeham, in a field by the church, like Giotto by Cimabue, tending his father's flock. Wykeham educated him in his own colleges at Winchester and Oxford; and Chicheley, the founder himself of so many noble institutions at Oxford and elsewhere, lived to do honour to his patron's discrimination.

The *Castle* stood N. of the church, and was probably built by the Ferrers Earls. Of it there are no remains whatever, unless it be a portion of the moat.

The *Church* is one of the finest in the county, and of especial interest from its associations. The great tower and spire rise grandly as the churchyard is entered. On the N. side, a little in advance of the tower, is the school-house; nearly opposite are the remains of a Dec. cross, raised on steps: and on the S. side of the churchyard is the Bede-house, or hospital. The original vicarage-house stands near the Bede-house, W., and completes this group of buildings. The College stands in the main street of the town, at some distance N.W. of the church. The church, of which the ground-plan is somewhat unusual, consists at present of a nave and chancel, with S. aisle; of what may be termed a second nave and chancel, N. of the former; and of an additional N. aisle. The two chancels terminate in the same line. There are of course three ranges of piers, and the two naves are of equal width. The whole interior is fine and lofty, and the great width of the church does not appear out of proportion. The chief points to be noticed are—the superb *W. portal* of the tower; the *Dec. windows;* the *stall work* in the *chancel;* and the *brasses.* The building is E. Eng. and Dec., with some few Perp. additions.

The church, as an examination shows at once, consisted at first of an E. Eng. nave, chancel, and aisles, with a W. tower. In the earlier Dec. period, about 1290, the N. aisle was altered and widened, so as to form what may now be called the second nave; and a Lady Chapel, forming a second chancel, was carried out to the eastern line of the true chancel, and was made of the same dimensions. At the same time the E. Eng. wall of the chancel was pierced with Dec. arches, opening into the Lady Chapel. An additional N. aisle was added somewhat later; the spire was built, new windows made nearly throughout the church, and the chancel especially transformed into Dec. These later changes were effected about 1340. The restoration of the whole building, which has been carried out since 1860, is good; and there has certainly been no unnecessary destruction. The cleaning has brought out the use of variously coloured stones in piers and arches, irregularly dis-

posed, and not in those formal bands which are never agreeable.

The *Tower and Spire* became ruinous, and fell, in great part, in the first half of the 17th centy. They were rebuilt, Archbp. Laud contributing to the cost; but happily the work was done in rigid imitation of the original, and the greater part of the old material was used up again. Inscriptions on the exterior record that the "steeple was begun to be builded, April 20th, 1631," and was finished in 1632, "Richard Atkins of Northamp. the workman." The lower part of the tower, with the W. portal, does not seem to have suffered from the fall. The portal, like the rest of the tower, is E. Eng., but of rather foreign than English character. Like the W. portals of Raunds and of Rushden, it is set in a sort of shallow porch, but differs from them in having a double entrance divided by a shaft or pier, while the whole upper part, above the capitals of the great enclosing arch, is a massive closed tympanum. The heads of the doorways are formed by low segmental arches, having jambs and architraves richly moulded with foliage and small figures. The central shaft, of which the foliaged termination is unusual, carries a squared base for a figure. The tympanum is filled with circles containing sculpture, with diaper work between them. The subjects are (N. side), the Salutation of Mary and Elizabeth; the Angel appearing to Zacharias; the Wise Men's Offering; Our Lord in the Temple; His Baptism; and (S. side) the Angels appearing to the Shepherds; the Crucifixion; the Annunciation; the Disciples at the Sepulchre (which is shown as a coffin resting on an E. Eng. trefoiled arcade, through which are seen the soldiers, as in an Easter sepulchre), and the Descent into Hell. The outer enclosing arch rises from foliaged caps.; and the vault of the shallow porch is richly diapered. All this work is in Barnack stone; and the diapering, figures, and other ornaments, have been painted. One original buttress remains at the N.W. angle; the others are 17th-centy. work. A much mutilated, but very beautiful arcade, with a window, extends along one stage of the N. side of the tower. The other windows are ancient, rebuilt. The trefoiled corbel table under the parapet is E. Eng. The parapet itself, with the spire, and its short flying buttresses, is Dec. of the middle of the 14th centy., but was entirely rebuilt in the 17th.

Entering the church, it will be seen that the piers on the S. side of the nave are E. Eng., part of the original building. The two other ranges are Dec., as are the clerestory, the plain open roof, and the windows. The arch into the tower is fine E. Eng. There is a Dec. S. porch; and at the end of the S. aisle was an altar of the Virgin, this having served as the Lady Chapel before the construction of the eastern chapel, parallel with the chancel. The *windows* throughout the church are for the most part Dec. (curvilinear), and those of the chancel have ogee headings. The *font* at the end of the N. nave is E. Eng. The chancel retains its E. Eng. double piscina; and the jambs of the windows are also perhaps of this period. The Dec. arches on the N. side were, as has been said, cut through the E. Eng. wall, and the pier between them is a part of this wall, and retains its E. Eng. string. There is also a very beautiful Priests' door, of E. Eng. date. The church was made collegiate, or rather a college was attached to the church by Abp. Chicheley in 1415, the year after that in which he became Archbishop of Canterbury. Accordingly, the fittings of the chancel, with the stalls and screen work, are of this date. The 20 stalls were for the members of the college (see *post*).

On the subsellia is some good carving, including a head of the founder, and the arms of Canterbury impaled with Chicheley. The ancient altar steps and the original tiling (earlier than Chicheley's time) remain, and the arrangement of the tiles is worth attention. Under the easternmost arch dividing the chancel from the Lady Chapel, is an altar-tomb of great beauty, the sides of which have panels with the arms of England. The arch, which forms the canopy of the tomb, has been painted in compartments of red and green, and figures of butterflies and lions rampant appear on the mouldings. It has been suggested that this tomb was prepared for one of the Earls of Lancaster, although not one of them was buried here. There is now on the high tomb the *brass* of Lawrence Seymour, rector from 1289 to 1337, who wears the Eucharistic vestments. The brass did not at any time really belong to the tomb, and has probably been placed on it at a comparatively recent period. A small door east of this tomb opens to a sacristy formed at the back of the altar of the Lady Chapel, an arrangement found also in the church of Rushden.

On the chancel floor is the *brass* of the parents of Archbp. Chicheley. It is a Latin cross, with emblems of the Evangelists, and the Saviour in Majesty in the centre. The inscription at the foot records "Thomas Chichele, who died, Feb. 25, 1400," and Agnes his wife. This interesting brass, which the Abp. no doubt placed here, has not escaped defacement, and on the slab appears "R.S. 1773." There are *brasses* for Richard Wylleys, warden of the college; for a priest, 1498; and for William Thorpe, "marcer," died 1504—and his wife.

The *School House*, on the S. side of the ch.-yd., is a Perp. building of 3 bays, with very good windows, open battlements, and buttresses carrying finials. Within, in the eastern part, is a stone pulpit. This school was founded by Abp. Chicheley; like the *Bede-house* opposite,—which was designed for 12 men and one woman, all to be 50 years old when elected, and one to be governor with the title of Prior. The W. end of the Bede-house, with its fine window, and open bell-cot above, is good. At the E. end is the chapel, ascended by 6 steps from the hall.

The domestic buildings of Abp. Chicheley's *College* are in the main street, and have become very ruinous. They were built round a quadrangle, of which the gateway remains, with three niches above it; some square-headed windows, and the arch of a larger window, blocked, under a gable. This has been called the window of a chapel—but without good reason. The whole seems domestic.

The name of Chichele was to be found in the register of Higham until the middle of the 17th centy. Two brothers of the Abp. became, one Lord Mayor of London, the other alderman and sheriff.

[This will be the best starting-place for visiting *Rushden Church*, 1½ m. S. of Higham, on the high road toward Bedford. Like most of the churches in and near the Nen valley, Rushden has some striking peculiarities—the principal of which are the richly decorated strainer arch across the nave; the small flying buttresses at the porch; and the beautiful "Bochar" arch into the S chancel aisle. The ground-plan is unusual—a short, broad nave, of three bays, and with broad aisles; a chancel and aisles of two bays, the walls ranging parallel with those of the nave; short, wide transepts, opening on either side from the easternmost bay of the nave; N. and S. porches in the westernmost bays; and a W. tower. The walls are throughout very early Dec. except

those of the tower. This is late Dec. and at the time of its erection the nave and transept roofs were apparently lowered, and a clerestory introduced. The nave pillars, strainer arch, and tower windows, are early Perp.—and about the beginning of 16th centy. the chancel piers and arches, the windows and battlements, were built and altered, and the existing roofs erected.

The tower is crowned by a very fine *spire*, more taper and more graceful than that of Higham. There are 3 ranges of Dec. lights, and, as at Higham, small flying buttresses connect the pinnacles of the tower. This latter has lofty buttresses, set on not quite close to the angle, and having on the top a grotesque head. The rich cornices and details of the belfry stage should be especially noticed—the windows here being Perp. insertions. The W. portal, trefoil-headed, is under a shallow porch as at Higham; and this is connected with the buttresses of the tower by small and peculiar flying buttresses. *Within*, the eye is at once caught by the unusual width and shallowness of the nave, and by the singular *strainer arch*. There is an arch of precisely the same character in Finedon church (Rte. 12). and in the same situation—parallel with the W. walls of the transepts, and rendered necessary by the thrust of the western transept arches. In both churches the arch is of early Perp. character, with somewhat varying details. They are of course insertions—of later date than the walls they support; and may be compared with the great buttressing arches in Wells Cathedral, and with others at Salisbury and Canterbury. The effect here is to convert what is really a defect into one of the richest ornaments of the church. The nave piers may be of the same date as this arch. The roof is good late Perp., with figures of angels at the corbels. The "*Bochar arch*" opens from the S. transept into the chancel aisle. It is Perp., springing from caps. containing heads; and on the soffete is the legend "Yis arche made hue bochar and Julian hise wyf of whos sowlus God have merci upon. —Amen." (Qy., Hugh the *butcher*? nothing is known of him.) On either side of the arch, supporting its exterior square label, is a bracket with the figure of an angel holding a scroll, with inscriptions: "In God is all," and "A God help." A very beautiful parclose, of the same period, runs across the arch, and also encloses the adjoining transept. There is a screen of the same character across the chancel arch, and another under that N. In the *chancel*, the sedilia and piscina belong to the very early Dec. (almost E. Eng.) period. The east window is rich late Perp., as are others in the church, although some of the Dec. lights remain. The east end of the N. chancel aisle is walled off, as at Higham, and served as a sacristy. There are some remains of stained glass. The *font*, of very good character, is very early Dec. The pulpit is Perp. There is a square-headed fireplace at the W. end of the N. aisle. The church contains some monuments for the Pemberton family,—one of whom, recording the virtues of his wife, adds—

"We had eight children to augment our joys,
For her fower daughters, and for me fower boys;"

but none of these are of much interest. One William Maye, who died in 1631, left the interest of 100*l.* to the parish "so long as the world indures,"—having little prevision of commissioners or school boards. He ordered also that a prayer which he caused to be written on one of the walls of the church, should be "for ever" kept in repair. It has been respected accordingly in the restoration of Rushden church, which was completed in 1875. The Earls of Lancaster were for some

time lords of Rushden; but there is no evidence as to the builders of the church. *Rushden Hall* (F. U. Sartoris, Esq.) stands near the village, the people of which, as in most other villages on this side of the county, are chiefly boot and shoe makers.]

[The pedestrian may walk from *Higham by Stanwick* (2½ m.), where there is a most interesting church, to *Raunds* (2 m. farther) where is a station (1¼ m. from the village) on the rly. from Huntingdon to Kettering. These churches are described in Rte. 15. The country through which he will pass is high, and commands wide views.]

(c) The *Church* of *Irthlingborough* is seen 1 m. W. of the Higham Ferrers station. Its special feature is the detached, square bell-tower, with the lofty octagon arising from it. Irthlingborough, in Domesday "Erdiburne," and "Erdinurne," is locally called "Hartlebury," the old *t* having been softened (in *Irth*lingborough) into *th*. In the village there stands the shaft of a cross, 13 ft. high, which, as Brydges says, "was used as a standard for the pole to measure out the parts or 'doles' in the meadows." This was before the enclosure of the parish. The manor was one of the earliest possessions of the Abbey of Peterborough, and so remained until the Dissolution. There were 2 churches here—probably connected with two distinct manors, but both belonging to Peterborough. *All Saints'* has entirely disappeared, and only part of the foundations can be traced, in an open field close to the village. *St. Peter's*, the existing church, was, like that of Higham, collegiate. The college was founded in 1376 by John Pyel, citizen and mercer of London, and in 1373, Lord Mayor. He bought the manor, held under the Abbey, from Sir Simon de Drayton; but died before his college was completed, which was done by his widow, Joan, in 1388. The church owes its great interest to these benefactors. The building, as it existed before the collegiate foundation, was E. Eng. and Dec., and was not very important, though the portions which remain of these periods deserve attention. The ground plan somewhat resembled that of Rushden. Pyel and his widow did something for the church, and fitted the chancel with stalls for the college; but their great works were the detached campanile, the octagon which crowns it, and the domestic buildings of the college which adjoined it, but have disappeared. (It has been suggested that the massive tower is itself E. Eng., and that the windows in the belfry stage are insertions. This is at least doubtful, although there is, at Marston Morteyne in Bedfordshire, a great detached bell-tower, much resembling this, part of which is certainly E. Eng.—See *Handbook for Beds.*, Rte. 3.) The arms of Pyel, a bend between two mullets pierced, appear on many parts of the tower. A late Dec. porch, with 4 doorways opening to the cardinal points, joins the W. end of the nave. The W. doorway leads into a building which joins the campanile, and is perplexing in its arrangement, although certainly connected with the collegiate buildings. The *tower*, into which it opens, is of 4 stages, very massive, having buttresses close to the angles. Those on the S. side are modern, and a vast buttress has also been built against the eastern face, and was rendered necessary by the dangerous state of the tower, which leans to the S.E. The belfry windows are double, with a statue under a trefoiled niche, between each light. The *octagon* which rises from the tower is in 2 stages, and, as has been truly said, is far more domestic or castellated in character than eccle-

siastical. It was divided within into 3 stories, connected by staircases and passages in the thickness of the wall. The lower, and the uppermost chamber, have fireplaces. A square-headed and panelled window appears on the outside on all eight faces of this topmost chamber. Within, they are only partially open and become trefoiled lights with a deep splay. There is no doubt that these chambers were employed for the domestic purposes of the college, and the officers or others inhabiting them must have been well and airily lodged. Three subterranean chambers, traditionally called "Old Marlom's parlour," adjoin the tower, N. They are vaulted, and on one of the keystones are the arms of Pyel. The main buildings of the college were on the S. side of the church, and the fragment of a Dec. arch, at the S.W. angle of the S. aisle, must have been in some way connected with them.

Within the church remark a large blank arch at the end of the N. transept, of E. Eng. date, and never, as is clear, open. There is no sign of it on the exterior. There is a crypt or vault under the S. transept. In the S. choir aisle is the tomb, with effigies, of John Pyel and his wife, the founders of the college. Here also is a monument of black marble, of the 16th centy., with mural brasses, and a curious mixture of renaissance in its details. It is unknown for whom it was erected. The mutilated figure of Elizabeth, or Ann, Dame Cheyne, and a small brass with inscription only, for Richard Fryseby, first dean of the college, who died in 1415, are also in the church. The college consisted of 6 canons, one of whom was dean, and 4 clerks.

Leaving the Higham Ferrers station, and still journeying onward in company with the river, which winds and sparkles on the left, the rly. reaches the next station at

Ringstead (*Stat.*). A small group of churches, not of the first order, but of interest, is to be visited from this station:—Ringstead, Denford, Woodford, and the two Addingtons. *Ringstead* (restored, 1863) has an E. Eng. tower and spire (remark the narrow lancet with sculptured head in the 2nd story of the tower). The nave is for the most part E. Eng.; the chancel late Dec. There is a N. aisle, which is continued nearly parallel with the chancel; and, as at Higham Ferrers and at Rushden, the easternmost portion of the chantry thus formed is separated by a solid wall, and serves as a sacristy or vestry, entered by a Dec. door on the N. side of the altar. In the vestry are some remains of wall painting. A path from Ringstead to Raunds is known as the "Friar's Path," and is perhaps a relic of the dependence of this church, with that of Denford, on the Abbey of Chester. *Denford* (restored, 1865), 1½ m. N., has an E. Eng. tower and spire. The rest of the church is very early Dec., with some Perp. insertions. The most noticeable feature is the stone sedilia—4 on the N. side of the chancel, and 3 on the S.—separated by clustered shafts which carry trefoiled arches. The Vicarage is united with that of Ringstead; and the numerous sedilia may possibly be connected with the appropriation by Chester. *Woodford* (restored, 1867) lies about 2 m. W. from Denford, on the opposite bank of the river. This is an interesting church, with an E. Eng. tower, and Dec. spire. The pinnacles at the angles of the tower are Dec., and unusual in composition. The S. porch and door, E. Eng. and very graceful, deserve special notice. A small chapel, entered from the aisle, is attached to the porch on the E. side. A portion of the nave arcade is round-headed, and the capitals are unusually sculptured; but it is quite possible that this work is not more ancient than the beginning

of the 13th centy. Nave and aisles are crossed by arches at the 4th bay from the tower. The long and narrow chancel (Dec.), leans perceptibly to the N. The font is E. Eng. There is some Perp. woodwork in the church. In the N. aisle are the effigies of Sir Walter Trailli, and his wife Alianora, temp. Ed. I. They are carved in wood, an unusual example. The lady's dress is covered with a diapered pattern, and both figures show traces of painting in vermilion. The Traillis (see *Yielden, Hdbk. for Beds.*, Rte. 6) were for some time lords of the manor, and patrons of the church. In a recess cut into one of the pillars, and faced with glass, are the remains of a human heart, wrapped in coarse cloth. This is supposed to be the heart of a Trailli, killed in a crusade. In the chancel is the altar-tomb, with *brass*, of Symon Malory, died 1580. Numerous Roman relics, including the foundations of a villa, have been found in this parish. Here is *Woodford House* (Hon. Mrs. Arbuthnot).

Great Addington is 1¼ m. S. of Woodford, on the same side of the Nen. The *tower* (without a spire) is Dec., and very beautiful in all its details—windows (two of which are lozenge-shaped), panelled band below the battlements, and niche above the W. door. The rest of the church is for the most part Dec. The E. Eng. font, and a pillared piscina, deserve attention. The latter is in a chantry at the E. end of the N. aisle; founded by Henry Vere early in the 16th centy. His monument, with effigy, wearing a collar of SS, remains in the aisle; and an inscription records that he left 3 drs., of whom the eldest was married "to John Lord Mordaunt, first Barr. of this kingdom." On a raised slab of black marble is the *brass* of John Bloxam, 1st Chaplain of this chantry, died 1519. He holds in his hands the chalice, containing a wafer with the sacred monogram. At the corners of the slab are the emblems of the 4 Evangelists. (The register of Great Addington contains some curious entries by Thomas Cox, rector, who died in 1640. One of these relates to a popular rising which took place in some part of Northamptonshire, in 1607, to destroy "the hedges and other mounds of the enclosed fields." There were disturbances at Rushden and Pycheley; and again at Newton near Geddington, where there was a fight between the people and the "justices and gentlemen." Some were killed and wounded, and many taken prisoners. These, on conviction, were hanged and quartered, and their quarters set up at Northampton, Oundle, Thrapston, and other places.) A field called Shooter's Hill, in this parish, marks the site of a large burial-place, perhaps Brito-Roman. Many skeletons have been found.

Little Addington, 1 m. S., is almost entirely Dec., with very pure and beautiful tower arch, and main arcade.)

Beyond Ringstead station the rly. crosses the Midland line from Huntingdon to Kettering, close to the station on that line, which serves for Thrapston; and speedily reaches its own station at

Thrapston (*Stat.*). The *Midland* stat. just passed is about ½ m. from the town. In approaching, the spire of Islip is seen l.

Thrapston (*Inn:* the White Hart) is a market town of 1233 inhab., and the most important in this part of the county. It is the great grain-market for much of Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire; and the two lines of railway render it easy of access from all parts. There is nothing in Thrapston, however (it is Trapestone in Domesday), to attract the tourist. The church has a late Dec. tower with spire, and chancel. The nave is modern. There is an indifferent east window of stained glass by *Wailes;* and a better on the

S. side of the chancel. Two low mounds, N.W. of the church, are supposed to mark the site of a castle, of which there is no record.

Uninteresting as the town is in itself, it is the best station from which to visit the churches of Islip and Lowick—(the latter full of fine monuments and ancient stained glass) —and the grand old mansion of Drayton. These places lie across the Nen, 1. To the rt. is the church of Tichmarsh, worth a visit.

(a) There is a very pretty view from the bridge which crosses the Nen between Thrapston and Islip. The river sweeps round between green meadows, overhung in the foreground by masses of fine trees. Loose-strife, arrow-head, the flowering rush, and many of the rarer water-plants abound; and the tall rushes which border the stream are used here for plaiting the outer portion of horse-collars and mats, and for the seats of chairs. The church of *Islip* is about 1 m. from the station. It stands, as usual, on the higher ground; and its tall, Perp. spire is a good landmark. The church was originally Dec., and the lower part of the tower may be of this period. This first building was replaced by a Perp. nave, aisles, and chancel. Perp. buttresses and an upper story were added to the tower, which was then crowned by its graceful spire. The proportions of the church (which has been carefully restored) are unusually perfect; the chancel is large; fine and lofty arches open into chancel and tower, and the main arcade has very peculiar piers, each of which is a long, narrow strip of masonry set N. and S., with attached shafts, E. and W. The shafts have high bases. The reredos is modern.

There are some good old houses in the village of Islip, and the chimney, so characteristic of Northamptonshire building, is here well seen. They are in pairs, with what is called a "wind-break" or hollow between them. The cottages are for the most part built of stone, oolite, or ironstone; and it may be remarked that throughout the county isolated farm-houses are rare. This has resulted from the comparatively late period (in many parishes, the end of the last century, or the beginning of the present) at which the whole country was enclosed. Each parish had its open "field," meadow and arable, in which the householders had their "doles" or shares. The "town," the place of the original settlement, thus retained its importance, and the houses of the principal farmers were gathered there, and not dispersed through the parish. The old forest character of the county may have helped to preserve these primitive features. Such solitary farm-houses as do exist are generally called "lodges," and seem to have been at first houses for verderers or keepers in the open spaces of the woods.

From Islip a good road leads to *Lowick* (2 m.), and there is a striking view over the country to the N.E., from the hill above Harper's Brook, as the streamlet is called which winds onward to the Nen. The lantern of Lowick Church (which must on no account be neglected by the antiquary) is seen rising among wood in front. The manor (Luhwic in Domesday, afterwards Lofwic and Luffwick), and its members, were held by various possessors, Nowers, De Veres, and Greenes, until, coming into the hands of this last family, it continued as a member of Drayton Manor, with the possessors of that house. The *Church* (restored 1869) is Perp., with a tower of the same date, carrying an octagonal lantern, supported by flying buttresses from the tower. In the church, remark the sedilia in the chancel, and in the chapel at the end of the north choir aisle. The *monuments* and the *glass*, however, are the chief points

of interest here. The brief history of the successive lords of Drayton (with which Lowick went), given *post*, will explain most of these *monuments*. There is, between the chancel and the N. choir aisle, the very fine alabaster tomb, with effigies of Ralph Greene, Esquire, and Katherine (Mallory) his wife—the second lord of Drayton and Lowick of that name—who died circ. 1420. He is in armour; and on the front of his bascinet are the letters IHS. NAZE. (Jesus of Nazareth). She has a rich headdress. The knight holds her hand, an unusual arrangement. The altar-tomb has angels bearing shields. The treatment of the angels' wings is noticeable. (The indenture for the making of this monument between Katherine, widow of Ralph Greene, and Thos. Prentys and Robert Sutton, "Kervers," exists, and is printed in Sir R. C. Hoare's 'Warminster,' p. 9. The "Kervers" were of Chelaston in Derby, and were bound to make the tomb "bien honestement et profitablement" of alabaster, with effigies. It was to cost "quarant livres d'esterling," 40*l.* sterling, and to be finished before "Pasques," 1420.) There are also, in the N. chapel, monuments for Lady Mary Mordaunt, Duchess of Norfolk by her first marriage, and afterwards wife of Sir John Germain, died 1705; and for Sir John Germain himself, died 1718. His 2nd wife was the Lady Betty Germain of whom we read in Walpole. She was the dr. of Charles, E. of Berkeley, and is recorded here by a small brass plate. In another chapel, projecting from the S. aisle of the church, is the tomb with effigy, of Edward Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire, died 1499. The long hair is flung back curiously. The letters of the inscription round the verge of the tomb, and the leaf ornament dividing the words, should be noticed for their great beauty. The whole is a model. The altar-tomb with *brasses* is that of Sir Henry Greene, died 1467, and his wife Margaret. He is in a tabard. The brass is sprinkled with scrolls, inscribed "Da gl'iam Deo." Some modern monuments, including one for Charles Sackville, 5th and last Duke of Dorset, d. 1843, should also be noticed.

The *stained glass* fills the Perp. windows in the N. aisle of the nave. Portions of it are the remains of one or perhaps of two Jesse windows, and the whole is of the Dec. period. It belonged, therefore, to some window or windows now destroyed, and it is probable that part at least came from a Dec. east window which the present Perp. one has replaced. The figures are those of kings and prophets, such as usually appear in a tree of Jesse, each surrounded by branches with leaves and fruit. There are no canopies. In the heads of the windows are smaller figures; among which St. John the Baptist, St. Andrew, and St. Michael are conspicuous. The tone, texture, and colouring of the glass are all of Dec. character. The last figure, at the E. end, belonged no doubt to a different window. It is that of a knight completely armed in chain-mail, kneeling, and offering the model of a church. On the hilt of the sword are the letters I. H. S. The shield bears arg. a cross engrailed, gules, the arms of Drayton, but assumed afterwards by De Veres and Greenes. There has been some question as to the date of this figure, since, while the armour might belong to the time of Henry III., the church in the hand seems to be late Dec. It is tolerably certain, therefore, that the glass is of that period, and the figure may have been imitated from some earlier design. An old tradition (there is no other evidence) asserts that it represents Sir Walter de Vere, who took the cross under Rich. I., and assumed the arms of Drayton. He is said to have founded or largely restored the ch.

of Lowick. On the other hand, Mr. Ayliffe Poole suggests that it may represent the 2nd Sir Henry Greene, circ. 1370, who was probably the restorer or rebuilder of the church. In the lower part of the windows runs a broken inscription, not fully intelligible, but containing a bidding prayer for some Drayton. In the N. chantry and in the chancel are some shields of arms, chiefly those of Greenes with their alliances.

At the eastern entrance of the village is a barn of the 14th centy., belonging to what was once an important grange. Jones of Nayland, the well known "divine," was born here; and there is an inscription in the ch.-yd. composed by him. In a field S. of the village is the *Lowick oak*—one of the largest perfect (not hollow) oaks in this country. The vast size of the tree is not evident until you are close under it. Then it is seen that the first limbs are of huge girth, and that the main bole above them is still enormous. The bark is ribbed and furrowed, and the great root crowns grandly folded and contorted. It is *Q. sessiliflora*, and a chief relic of the forest that once covered all this country.

Drayton (Mrs. Stopford Sackville), one of the most interesting places in Northamptonshire, lies about 1½ m. S.W. of Lowick. The house is approached through a park rich in stately avenues of wych-elms and lime-trees; and, with the surrounding grounds and gardens, affords such a picture of antiquity as will not easily be matched. The manor of Drayton in the reign of Hen. II. was in the hands of Aubrey de Vere, the first Earl of Oxford of that great house. It descended to his second son, Robert de Vere, and continued in that family until late in the reign of Ed. III. Sir Walter de Vere, temp. Rich. I., took the name of Drayton, and assumed the arms afterwards borne by all his representatives. (See *Lowick Church.*) About the 35th year of Ed. III. his descendant, Sir John of Drayton, conveyed the lordship to Sir Henry Greene, then Chief Justice of England. This Sir Henry had married Catherine of Drayton, aunt of Sir John. His son was the Henry Greene who was one of the principal followers of Rich. II., and who, together with the E. of Wiltshire and Sir John Bushey, was beheaded by the D. of Lancaster after the taking of Bristol Castle. His son Ralph recovered Drayton, and the Greenes held it until it passed by marriage with its heiress, Constance Greene, to John Lord Stafford, 2nd son of the D. of Buckingham, created E. of Wiltshire in the 9th year of Ed. IV. Thence Drayton passed, again by marriage, to John, Lord Mordaunt, temp. Hen. VII.; and the Mordaunts (who made Turvey in Bedfordshire their principal seat—see *Hdbk. for Beds., Rte.* 5—and became Earls of Peterborough temp. Charles I.) retained it until the death of the 2nd Earl, whose dr. Mary married 1st the D. of Norfolk, and 2nd Sir John Germain—carrying Drayton to each husband. She left it at her death to Sir John, whose 2nd wife was Lady Elizabeth, dr. of Charles, E. of Berkeley. Sir John Germain was a gambling adventurer, who, according to Walpole, was so ignorant that he placed the pillars of his new colonnade "with the capitals downward, supposing them pedestals"—and who turned the fish-ponds into a hop-garden. He left Drayton to Lady Betty, who bequeathed it in turn to Lord George Sackville, who is represented by the present owner.

The first E. of Peterborough, who died in 1642, is said to have been converted from Romanism through a discussion held at Drayton between Abp. Usher and Rokewood, a Jesuit. His widow lived in a private house at Lowick, and maintained Archbp. Usher for some time after his compelled absence from Ireland. His

famous 'Conferences with a Jesuit' (Rokewood and Beaumont are both named) were held here. When the Countess of Peterborough visited King Charles at Holdenby, and told him that she maintained the Abp., the king replied that, "charity covered a multitude of faults." Usher's Puritan views were not in favour at court.

(The history of Drayton is told in a very rare volume (only eighteen copies are known to exist) entitled 'Succinct Genealogies of certain noble and ancient families, by Robert Halstead, London, 1685.' There is a copy in the Brit. Mus., and one is retained at Drayton, where the book was compiled by the 2nd E. of Peterborough, with the help of his chaplain Mr. Rans. The name of Halstead is fictitious.)

Sir Simon de Drayton (of the House of De Vere) had licence in the 5th year of Ed. III. to convert his mansion house here into a castle, and to impark 30 acres round it. Henry, the last of the Greenes, whose daughter Constance married Lord John Stafford, afterwards E. of Wiltshire, rebuilt great part of the house, which was again much altered by the Mordaunts in the reign of Elizabeth, and underwent a considerable remodelling under William III.—perhaps at the hands of Mary, the Mordaunt heiress. All this variety gives a somewhat unusual character to the house. Tudor towers are crowned by Wm. III. cupolas, and a "vast hall has been interpolated within the old quadrangle, the approach to which, through the dead wall of the mediæval screen, gives the place a very foreign air." Here, however, is Horace Walpole's description, written to Montague, July 23, 1763, but still appropriate :—

"Well! we hurried away and got to Drayton an hour before dinner. Oh! the dear old place! You would be transported with it. In the first place it stands in as ugly a hole as Boughton; well, that is not its beauty. The front is a brave, strong castle wall, embattled, and loopholed for defence. Passing the great gate you come to a sumptuous, but narrow modern court, behind which rises the old mansion, all towers and turrets. The house is excellent; has a vast hall, ditto dining-room, king's chamber, trunk gallery at the top of the house, handsome chapel, and 7 or 8 distinct apartments, besides closets and conveniences without end. Then it is covered with portraits, crammed with old china, furnished richly, and not a rag in it under forty, fifty, or a thousand years old, and not a bed or a chair that has lost a tooth, or got a grey hair, so well are they preserved. I rummaged it from head to foot, examined every spangled bed, and enamelled pair of bellows, for such there are; in short I do not believe the old mansion was ever better pleased with an inhabitant since the days of Walter de Drayton, except when it has received its divine old mistress. If one could honour her more than one did before, it would be to see with what religion she keeps up the old dwelling and customs, as well as old servants, who you may imagine do not love her less than other people do. The garden is just as Sir John Germaine brought it from Holland; pyramidal yews, treillages, and square cradle walks, with windows clipped in them." The "divine old mistress" was of course Lady Betty, whose receipts for apricot jam are still famous at Drayton.

The screen through which the court is entered is Edwardian, and no doubt part of Simon de Drayton's work. The fine vaulted cellars also belong to this period. The very rich iron work of the entrance gates, and the Venetian knockers on the great doors, deserve notice. The iron work (of which there is much

in the neighbourhood of the house) bears the cypher of Mary Mordaunt, Duchess of Norfolk—and its date is thus clearly marked. The fine colour of the stone, as the court is entered, receives additional value from the creepers trained against part of the walls. Within, the house retains its spangled beds, its wealth of old china, including various monsters patronised by Lady Betty, and a great number of portraits, some few of which are of interest. The long gallery at the top of the house is now used as a library, and is approached by a remarkable geometrical staircase of oak. William III. once visited Drayton (probably when he passed to Althorp in 1695), and in anticipation of his arrival the hall and the great dining room received the Italianised decorations which they still retain. The following are the most important *pictures*. In the *hall:* Henry D. of Norfolk, on a grey horse; fig. by *Lely*. William III. on a grey barb; *Kneller*. James E. of Berkeley; *Kneller*. *King's Dining Room:* Eliz., wife of John Mordaunt, 1st E. of Peterborough; *Vandyck*. Henry, 2nd E. of Peterborough, full length in armour; *Dobson*. *Drawing Room:* Lord George Germain; *Romney*. (This was Lady Betty's heir, Lord G. Sackville, who took the name of Germain.) Joseph Damer, 1st Baron Milton, afterwards E. of Dorchester, and his wife, both by *Battoni*. A portrait said to be that of Sir Thomas Boleyn, father of Anne Boleyn, and ascribed to *Holbein*. Philip le Bel, father of Charles V. A portrait called that of Cervantes. Anne, Countess of Warwick, wife of Ambrose Dudley, E. of W.; *Sir A. More*. In this room is a singular clock, perhaps French, the hours marked on a globe at the top, the works within an open enrichment of gold, the whole jewelled. *Blue Room:* Charles E. of Peterborough and Monmouth; Mary Q. of England; *Lucas de Heere*. *Little Drawing Room:* Lord George Sackville (Germain); *Sir J. Reynolds*. George Damer, 2nd E. of Dorchester; *Reynolds*. Lord and Lady Hunsdon, both by *Zucchero*. 2 views of Venice; *Canaletto*. *Dining Room:* Henry Rich, E. of Holland; *Mytens*. *Little Dining Room:* Father Huddlestone, confessor to Charles II. *Ante Room:* Frances, Duchess of Richmond and Lennox, dr. of Thomas Lord Howard of Bindon, assigned to *Vandyck*. *Staircase:* Thos. Sackville, 1st E. of Dorset; and a very curious picture representing a "play of canes," "Giuocco de Cainnas," before the Emperor Charles V. It is signed "Johannes Maius," and is by Mayo, domestic painter to the Emperor. The inscription underneath runs, "Carol. V. nuper Hisp. Rex Chariss. conjugi Isabellæ Auguste gravide in agri Toletani planitie jaculationem cannarum ludum fecit, 1539, mense Mart. Ut præsens viderat Johannes Maiius pictor effinxit." The "play of canes" is the "djerreed" play of the East, and was common among the Spanish Moors. It is played on horseback, the reeds being aimed at the back of the galloping rider.

The gardens, which had undergone some change since Walpole visited them, were restored to their ancient formality by the late possessor, Mr. Stopford Sackville. There are large pieces of still water, in which the house is reflected, with lime-trees of great size sweeping the banks, and walks of bright green turf between them. Old hedges of hornbeam and beech, berceaux and cabinets de verdure, might be the very same "brought from Holland" by Sir John Germain. There is a banqueting house; and the south front of the mansion, with its Elizabethan towers and cupolas, rises above formal beds and alleys set thick with old-fashioned flowers.

[From Lowick the tourist may proceed to *Sudborough*, about 1¼ m.

N.W. The *Church* (restored) is chiefly E. Eng. with a fine piscina and single sedile on the S. side of the chancel. The upper part of the chancel is Dec. Here is the good effigy of Sir Robert de Vere, standard bearer to William Longespée, E. of Salisbury, and killed with him in Palestine. Under a window at the E. end of the N. nave aisle is a *brass* with figures of William West, died 1390, and Joanna his wife, and of Wm. West, "Marblerus," worker of marble (?). Sudborough belonged for some time to the De Veres, and afterwards went nearly in the same line with Drayton. There are large earthworks and ponds at a place called "Money-holes," said to be the site of a monastery, of which nothing whatever is known. The country here is not greatly broken, but is pleasant; and large woods stretch away northward, through which the pedestrian may find his way (though this will not be easy for a stranger) to *Lyveden new and old buildings*, distant about 4 m. They are more easily reached however from Oundle (see *post*). These woods are divided and cut through by broad green tracks called "ridings" (*hridding* A.S. = a clearing) and narrower paths called "tracks." There is a track known as "King Stephen's riding," near Brigstock, and many of them are no doubt of great antiquity — hunters' passes through the forest. The long green alley, with fine oak rising among the thick wood at the sides, is often very impressive. "Twayblade" and "Herb Paris" are frequent in these woods, which in the spring are blue with the wild hyacinth (*Scilla nutans*). One of the woods toward Lyveden is known as *Lady Wood*, and is connected with the remarkable attempt of the "Black Watch" — the 42nd regiment — to return to the Highlands after their march to England in 1743. The independent companies of the Black Watch, formed in the Highlands after the rising of 1715, were, in 1740, embodied into a regiment, apparently with the understanding that they should not be moved from their own country. Notwithstanding this, and against the strong remonstrances of President Forbes of Culloden, they were marched to London in 1743, and it was believed that they were destined for foreign service. They were reviewed on Finchley Common by Marshal Wade, but there was great discontent and uneasiness among them, increased by persons who were anxious to excite a spirit of disaffection to the government, and who made the Highlanders believe that they were to be transported to the American plantations for life. The greater part of the regiment accordingly resolved to return to Scotland, and began their march northward on the night of the 14th of May. It is remarkable that, in spite of orders issued to the sheriffs and officers of the counties through which their route lay, nothing was heard of them for 5 days. They kept between the two great northern roads (setting out from Highgate) and passed from wood to wood, until they were at last discovered in Lady Wood, about 5 m. from Oundle. General Blakeney, then stationed at Northampton, marched with a body of troops towards the wood where the Highlanders lay, and drew up close outside it. Some conferences took place, and the men long declared that they would not submit without promise of a free pardon. The general declared that unless they surrendered, they should be cut to pieces; and they began after some hours to come over to him in bodies of ten and fifteen. All at length surrendered. They were taken back to London, tried by court martial, and condemned to be shot, a sentence which was only carried out on three of them. At least one of the High-

landers died during their sojourn in Lady Wood, and a corner of land near it was until lately known as the "soldier's grave." The site is still remembered, but the ground has long been under the plough.

(b) 2 m. N.E. of Thrapston, on high ground, is *Tichmarsh* (*Tyccen*, A.S. = *goat's* marsh?), where the church is interesting, and has some memorials of the poet Dryden. Early in the reign of Ed. VI. Gilbert Pickering bought a manor in Tichmarsh with the advowsons of Tichmarsh and Aldwincle All Sts., from Wm. E. of Worcester. Henry Pickering, a younger son of Sir Gilbert Pickering of Tichmarsh, was rector of Aldwincle All Saints, and his daughter Mary, married, Oct. 21, 1630, Erasmus Dryden, 3rd son of Sir E. Dryden, Bart., of Canons Ashby. The poet (born at Aldwincle —see *post*) was their eldest son. His father, after his marriage, lived much at Tichmarsh, and is described as "of Tichmarsh" in the letters patent of 1670, making John Dryden poet laureate. Under his father's will the poet acquired some small property in the parish; and he sometimes visited his cousin, Mrs. Creed, here and at Cotterstock (see *post*). Mrs. Creed, the only daughter of Sir Gilbert Pickering, whose husband died in 1701, was something of an artist, and in her old age painted sundry decorations for this church (and many others in the neighbourhood), including an elaborate memorial for that "picous Christian," Mrs. Jane Pickering, which still remains here. The inscriptions for that family, which exist in the N. aisle of the chancel, were nearly all composed by her, including one for Dryden's father and mother, who were buried here. He receives himself a long commemoration on this tablet; "We boast," it runs in part, "that he was bred and had his first learning here, where he has often made us happie by his kind visits and most delightful conversation." Above this tablet is a wooden (in every sense) bust of "glorious John," with the words, "The Poet." Mrs. Creed's own monument, with a large, plain marble urn and two "sauce bolts," is at the end of the S. aisle.

The church itself (restored) has early Dec. nave and chancel, with Perp. windows inserted, and a superb W. tower, in four stages, with bands of quatrefoiled ornament, niches, pinnacles, and a battlement rising in steps between them. It is of finely coloured Welden stone, full of shells, and for the most part very perfect. The capitals of the main arcade, and the ornaments at the terminations of the hood mouldings should be noticed. On the eastward side of the chancel arch is a king's head—perhaps that of Ed. I.—with long moustache and small coronet. There is some Norm. work on the interior of the doorway S. of the chancel—and the chancel walls seem to have been much altered—probably when the Perp. east window was inserted. This is filled with stained glass by *Hardman*, together with one of the side windows. (In the E. window appears St. John taking home the Virgin—the figures from Delaroche's picture.) The low modern reredos has well sculptured symbolical subjects—Abraham and Melchizedec, and Abraham offering Isaac.

The Pickering Manor-house (quite gone) stood on the S. side of the church, near a very fine elm-tree seen from the ch.-yd. The clock worked into the side of the tower was erected by that family, and was visible from the house. There was a curious structure (long removed) leading from the entrance of the ch.-yd. to the parvise over the S. porch, which served as the Pickering pew. In it Dryden may often have sat. The ditches and mounds of

a castle of the Lovells still exist about ¼ m. S.E. of the church. On the rectory lawn is, perhaps, the finest *cedar of Lebanon* in England. The height is 67 ft.—circumf. of farthest boughs, 90 yards. The tree was planted in 1627, and is said to have been then 20 years old. Its age is therefore about 260 years. The form is rounded rather than pyramidal; the colour is a silvery grey; and the branches, more like those of the Deodara than the Lebanon cedar, feather quite to the ground. The tree is healthy, still growing, and bears numberless cones. Under the great tent of shade the trunk and branches appear—a mass of twisted and contorted limbs, which extend and cross in all directions. The tree closely resembles the native "giants" of Lebanon, and is well worth a visit.

[2½ m. E. and on the border of the county, stood the church of *Clapton*, the spire of which was blown up in the last century, "to save the expense of keeping it in repair." It is said that from the tower, "Boston stump" in Lincolnshire could be seen. The distance as the crow flies is about 60 m. and the land is a perfect level between the two places. A new church of E. Eng. character was built here in 1864.]

Leaving the station at Thrapston, we soon reach

Thorpe Stat. The remains of the castle of *Thorpe Waterville* are close at hand, l.; and from this station the churches of Aldwincle (All Saints', and St. Peter's), Wadenhoe and Achurch may be visited.

All that remains of the *Castle*, besides the moats and foundations, is what may have been a guest-chamber, now converted into a barn; close by is a large house built of the stone and timber taken from the ruins. The family of Waterville held land here from the time of the Domesday survey to the reign of Ed. I., and the place thus received its distinctive name. They built a castle here; which, in the first years of the 14th centy., passed into the hands of Walter Langton, Bp. of Lichfield—who "erected a large mansion house at Thorpe, procuring for that purpose, without leave of the monks, and to their detriment, a vast quantity of timber from the woods belonging to Pipwell Abbey." From the bishop the place passed through various hands, until it came to the Lovells. It remained a strongly fortified place, since in 1461 William Paston, after telling of the battle of Towton, writes, "Item, Thorpe Waterfield is yielded, as Spordans can tell you." The lands were at last granted to Sir Wm. Cecil, Lord Burleigh,—and passed by exchange to the Powys family, now represented by Lord Lilford. Leland says that he saw "the ruins of the utter wall" of the castle—by that time fallen into decay. What remains is probably part of Bp. Langton's work. There seem to have been two stories; and there was a porch (now removed) on the E. side. A chimney, corbelled off about 7 ft. above ground, projects as a narrow strip of masonry from the face of a gable wall. In the wall are 2 circular openings, one on each side of the chimney. A skew-bridge with a ribbed soffete, also of the 14th centy., spans a brook which here flows onward to the Nen. This bridge has been widened, but retains its ancient portions.

The Nen here has divided into 2 channels; both of which are crossed before reaching (1½ m.) *Aldwincle All Saints*, the first of two parishes (the 2nd is Aldwincle St. Peter) which have in fact but one village. Each has its "illustration." In the rectory of Aldwincle All Saints John Dryden was born Aug. 9, 1631. In the old rectory of St.

Peter's, Thomas Fuller, the church historian, was born in 1608. "God in his providence," he writes, in his 'Mixt Contemplations,' "fixed my nativity in a remarkable place. I was born at Aldwincle, in Northamptonshire, where my father was the painful preacher of St. Peter's. This village was distanced one good mile W. from Achurch, where Mr. Brown, founder of the Brownists, did dwell, whom, out of curiosity, when a youth, I often visited. It was likewise a mile and a half distant east from Levenden" (Liveden) "where Francis Tresham, Esq., so active in the Gunpowder Treason, had a large demesne and ancient habitation. My nativity may mind me of moderation, whose cradle was rocked betwixt two rocks. Now seeing I was never such a churl as to desire to eat my morsel alone, let such who like my prayer join with me therein:—God grant we may hit the golden mean, and endeavour to avoid all extremes—the fanatic Anabaptist on the one side, and the fiery zeal of the Jesuit on the other." "Aldwincle" is the "old corner" (*wincel*, A. S.); and the name is thoroughly appropriate to the tongue of land here formed by a deep bend of the Nen. The two churches are due to the existence of two great properties, one belonging to the Abbey of Peterborough, the other to a succession of lay lords, who held under the barony of Wardon, and who, until the reign of Ed. II., were named from the place De Aldwincle. The *Church* of *All Saints* is E. Eng. (main arcade S. side, chancel arch, and E. window, with plate tracery) and early Dec. (N. side of main arcade and clerestory). Perp. windows have been inserted in the aisles. The W. tower is Perp. and has unusually large louvre lights in the upper stage. On the S. side of the chancel is a Perp. chantry—erected in 1489 by "Wm. Chambre and Eliz. his wife—formerly wife of Wm. Aldwincle." It was dissolved within 60 years of its foundation. On the N. aisle is a Dec. vestry—a very picturesque addition. The *brass* of "Wm. Aldewyncle," d. 1463, is in the chancel; and on the wall of the N. aisle is a brass for "John Pykering, physitian," died 1659. He was great uncle to Dryden, and brother to the poet's grandfather, Henry Pickering, rector of the church—who is buried in the ch.-yd. under an altar-tomb. There is another such tomb for Lucy Pickering, his daughter—aunt of the poet. The *rectory* is on the N. side of the church. It is a long low house, rather picturesque, and having portions which are certainly older than Dryden's time. A window over the door is said to have lighted the room in which John Dryden was born; but the room itself has been lessened and altered. The poet was born here in 1631—his grandfather having been rector 40 years, when he died in 1637. The date on his tomb has been misread by Bridges and others, whose error gave some difficulty to Sir Walter Scott. (Bridges makes Henry Pickering rector for only 10 yrs., and die in 1657. The difficulty was therefore to understand how Dryden came to be born here sixteen years before his grandfather's appointment. The true reading has been cleared by the Rev. H. Ward, rector of St. Peter's—and is "forty" instead of 10, and 1637 (the year of death) instead of 1657. There is no register here older than 1650. Hence the direct proof of Dryden's birth at the rectory is not forthcoming.)

The *Church* of *Aldwincle St. Peter* has one of the most graceful towers with broach spire to be found in the county. It is late Dec. (circ. 1373) of the same date as the chancel, which has flamboyant windows. An exterior string-course has grotesque heads—besides birds—and small animals clinging feet upwards

to it. The nave is E. Eng.—the sculpture of each cap. being different. In the east window are remains of very good stained glass, including portraits of two rectors—one of whom, William de Luffwick (for whose "life" the inscription desires prayer), probably assisted in rebuilding the chancel. In one of the S. windows are figs. of St. George and St. Christopher, with a bordure showing a white dog and a hare alternately. The white dog probably refers to the Lovels ("Lovel the dog") who at one time were connected with the manor. There is a very beautiful coped tomb, without inscription, in the angle formed by the N. aisle and the tower. It is of late Dec. character. On the S. wall of the chancel is the monument of Margaret Davenant, grandmother of Thomas Fuller. The baptism of Fuller is entered in the register in his father's writing, June 19, 1608. Of the old rectory in which he was born, nothing remains but the well. The house, which is described as having been a very curious one, was pulled down late in the last century.

The village of the Aldwincles, with fine trees scattered among the grey stone houses, is full of picturesque "bits;" and the whole of this country, especially on a broken day, when the lights are fleeting and well cast, is not unattractive. 1½ m. N. is *Wadenhoe* on high ground, as the name indicates. The "Castle Close" near the church, shows remains of foundations, and a mound which may be that of an English "strength" before the Conquest. The manor was long held by the Le Stranges. The greater part of the ch. has been rebuilt. Adjoining is *Wadenhoe House* (Mrs. Ward Hunt), with some good trees about it. There is here only a foot-bridge over the Nen; and the tourist, if not a pedestrian, must proceed 1½ m. farther to *Pilton*. The road commands a really fine view across the river, which is here bordered on the rt. bank by deep woods called the "Lynches," belonging to Lord Lilford. At the entrance of Pilton is an enormous walnut-tree; and in the village a remarkable cottage, built with (apparently) E. Eng. fragments, said to have been brought from the chapel of Thorpe Waterville. The church is E. Eng., with a low broach spire. In this church were married, Oct. 21, 1630, Erasmus Dryden and Mary Pickering, parents of the poet. (The name is spelt Dreydon in the register which records this marriage.) The rectory (once the manor-house) is a most picturesque Elizabethan house with oak staircase and panelled drawing-room. Near it is another very large walnut-tree.

A bridge crosses the river below Pilton; and the views in either direction, with woods, rich meadows, and deep beds of waterflags along the stream, are very beautiful. On the rt. bank, above the bridge, is *Lilford* (Lord Lilford)—see *post*; and pleasant, tree-bordered roads lead us back to *Achurch*, nearly opposite Wadenhoe. The trees, mostly elms, form avenues along the roads, and were planted, inside the hedges, when the country here was enclosed, about 1773.

Achurch (Asechirce in Domesday, and often called Thorpe Achurch) has a good church, with an E. Eng. tower and spire, and a Dec. (geometrical) chancel. It has been well restored by *Slater*. There is a monument (removed from the old church of Lilford) for Sir Thomas Powys, one of the Judges of the Queen's Bench, died 1719; fine in its way, a reclining figure, with Religion and Eloquence on either side. This was the first Powys owner of Lilford. The long inscription was composed by Matthew Prior. A very large and fine ash-tree grows on the N. side of the church. (Northamptonshire ash timber is famous, and still commands large prices. At the

beginning of the last centy. 100 ash-trees sold for 1500*l.*) The rectory dates from 1633. Robert Brown, rector here through the early part of the 17th centy., was the founder of the Brownists, and "used to say" that there was "no church in England but his, and that was *a-church*." Brown was related to the Lord Treasurer Burleigh, who gave him this living; but, violent enthusiast as he was, his position here did not prevent him from constantly opposing the law, and he boasted that he had been committed to 32 prisons, in some of which he "could not see his hand at noonday." He died when upwards of 80, in 1630, and in Northampton gaol, to which he had been committed for an assault on a constable.

1 m. S. of Achurch we regain the station at Thorpe Waterville. The next is

Barnwell Stat. (1½ m. west is *Lilford Park.* Close at hand, rt., are the *Barnwell* Churches, and the ruins of the *Castle*, worth visiting. The pedestrian may find his way from this station to the very interesting church of *Polebrook*, about 1½ m. N.E. There is a pleasant path across fields to which the stranger will be directed in the village of Barnwell.)

(a) *Lilford Park* (Lord Lilford; the present is the 4th Baron) is a fine Charles I. mansion, built by the family of Elmes in 1635, much altered by Sir Thomas Powys, who became owner of the manor in 1711. His descendant was created Baron Lilford in 1797. The house stands high, among thick and noble woods, and is approached on all sides by very fine avenues of elm. There are terraced gardens; besides aviaries and menageries containing some rare and interesting birds and animals, collected and cared for by the present Lord Lilford. Lilford *Church* contained many monuments of the Elmeses, who obtained the manor by marriage early in the reign of Henry VII. The great feature of Lilford and its neighbourhood is the quantity of wood, planted for the most part about 1773, in emulation of the Boughton woods and avenues (see Rte. 10), due to Duke John "the Planter," who died in 1749.

(b) *Barnwell*, like many other places in Northamptonshire, contained two great manors, which formed two distinct parishes, Barnwell St. Andrew, and B. All Saints. Both came at last into the possession of the Montagues, and are now united, although each has its church. *Barnwell St. Andrew* (nearest to the station) belonged to the Abbot of Ramsey at the time of the Domesday survey, and was formerly called B. Le Moyne, from a family so named who held the manor in fee under the Abbot. One of these Le Moynes, Berenger, built a castle here about 1264; and on inquiry being made 10 years later by Ed. I. by what warrant he had built it, he sold or ceded his whole right in castle and manor to the Abbot from whom he had held them. Berenger, nevertheless, seems to have been no friend to the monks; and the spoliations they endured from him are duly recorded by a contemporary. The Abbot retained the castle until the Dissolution, when it was sold to Sir Edward Montague about 1540. "At this village, "says Leland, "remain the 4 strong towres, part of Berengarius Castle, after 'longing to Ramsay Abbey, and now to Monteacute. Within the ruines of this castel is a meane house for a fermar." Sir Edward Montague is said to have "repaired and beautified" the castle; but it soon fell into ruin, and became the chief stone quarry of the neighbourhood.

The *Castle* may first be visited. The keys admitting to the quadrangle will be found at the very picturesque farm-house, with gables and tall chimneys, standing on one

side of a green, across which the castle itself is seen. Another stretch of gabled building, serving as stables and offices, closes in the green on the N. House and stables may have been the work of Sir Edward Montague, the "beautifyer," but they have been much altered at later periods. Fine old trees are scattered over the adjoining meadows, and the sketcher may here find many subjects for his pencil. The castle itself consists of a great quadrangle, with trefoil-shaped towers at the angles, and an entrance gateway between flanking towers, which are rounded. The gateway has two pointed arches, and close to the outer arch is the slit for the portcullis. There was a chamber over the gate, and one opening from it on either side, into the round towers. Walls and towers seem to have kept their full height, and are lofty. The whole may very well be the work of Berenger le Moyne. The interior of the area is planted with fruit-trees.

The *Ch.* of *Barnwell St. Andrew* has been restored (1873). The tower is E. Eng. below, Dec. in the uppermost stage, with a Dec. spire. The S. porch is E. Eng., the N. door rich Dec. The aisle windows also are Dec., and there are 3 Dec. sedilia at the end of the N. aisle. In the chancel was the coloured bust of *Nicholas Latham*, rector, who died in 1620, and is to be commemorated for his wide-spread charities. (This bust has been removed into the adjoining sacristy.) The inscription records that, though "parson of this church onlie by the space of fiftie and one yeares, and having noe other dignitie or lands or goods left him by his auncestors," he "builded 2 hospitals," one in Barnwell for 14 poor people, and one in Oundle for 18 widows;—he founded 5 free schools—in Barnwell, Oundle, Hemington, Weekley, and Brigstock;—"gave many other charitable gifts," as 2 exhibitions at Cambridge, "repayr of bridges and highways," and yearly clothing to 45 poor children, "all which doe amount to the sum of 300*l.* by the year for ever." He was married, and had one son, "which died an infant." The present annual value of this rectory, it is worth adding, is not more than 240*l.* "Parson" Lathom, as he is called, was the son of John Lathom, keeper of "Brigstock great park." His almshouse and school-house here remain near the church.

The church of *Barnwell All Saints*, or King's Barnwell, ¼ m. up the stream, has disappeared, with the exception of the chancel, which is retained as a burying-place for that branch of the Montagues represented by the Earls of Sandwich. There are here some long inscriptions, recording Montague descents and alliances, including one by the indefatigable Mrs. Creed, the cousin of Dryden. She had a house here, where her daughter died. There are few churches in this neighbourhood which could not at one time boast of a "painted cloth," a "table of the Commandments," or a monument, designed and painted by Mrs. Creed.

In the bank below the ch.-yd. are many wells, which probably gave name to the parish. A gold ring with raised medallions, one of which displays an abbot in his robes, was found here in 1844.

(c) *Polebrook Church*, which the ecclesiologist should see, is of much interest. There was here at first a late Norman church. An E. Eng. tower and spire were added on the S. side, and in connection with this, the S. arcade was altered, and E. Eng. transepts and a chancel built. The Norm. arch into the choir, and the N. arcade were left. The E. Eng. work is throughout very beautiful.

The N. arcade of nave has broad,

massive piers, with round (Trans.-Norm.) arches. The volute on the caps. of the piers indicates their late period. The E. Eng. arcade opposite is far loftier. The cap. of the central pier is enriched with leafage—and the lofty arches are round-headed—an adaptation to the Norm. work, N. An E. Eng. arch opens into the tower, at the S.W. end of the aisle. The S. transept is much shallower than that N., and has an E. Eng. double piscina in the S. wall. The N. transept has a very beautiful E. Eng. wall arcade, with detached shafts. There are six arches on the W. side, three on the N. The mouldings, and the ornaments at the crown of the arches, chiefly foliage, deserve careful attention. There is an aumbrie at the end of the arcade on the N. side, a Dec. N. window, and 2 very good Dec. windows, inserted in E. Eng. openings, on the east. The view across the nave from this transept is especially striking. The E. window is E. Eng., and a piscina in the chancel is figured by Rickman. The tracery of the great W. window was removed by the singers in lawless days, which are happily passed. The gallery which they occupied has disappeared in its turn, and the ch. has been well restored.

Polebrook, which gives name to the hundred, stands on a small stream flowing into the Nen. The manor, after passing through various hands, came, early in the reign of Henry III., into those of Robert Fleming, who conveyed it, together with the advowson of the rectory, to John de Caleto, Abbot of Peterborough (he died in 1262, 46th Hen. III.). The manor henceforth remained in the hands of Peterborough Abbey until the Dissolution; and there can be little doubt but that the E. Eng. work in the ch. is due to that great monastery, and was begun soon after Polebrook became the property of the Abbot (who bestowed it on the community.)

Leaving Barnwell stat., and crossing a deep bend of the Nen, we reach

Oundle Station; the lofty spire of the church having been for some time conspicuous, l.; and rt., as we reach the stat., is the *Abbot's Mill*, formerly belonging to the monastery of Peterborough. The stat. is ¼ m. from the town, and a long and ancient bridge over the Nen is crossed on the way. Oundle—the name has been interpreted as "Avon dale" and "Nen" itself is said to be a corruption of "Avon," but very questionably (*Inn:* the Talbot, a Jacobæan house, comfortable: there is a tradition that a staircase and some of the stonework were brought from Fotheringhay) (Pop. in 1871, 2868)—is one of the pleasantest towns in Northamptonshire, with broad, clean streets, picturesque oriel windows, and a general air of antiquity. It was undoubtedly a Roman site. Roman relics of various kinds have been found in every part of the town (a fragment of a cup, not Samian, with a Bacchanalian procession, is figured in Smith's 'Coll. Antiq.' It was found in the ch.-yd.), and in excavating for the rly. stat., many Roman coins were discovered, ranging from those of Claudius to the latest period. Oundle was a very early possession of the Peterborough monastery, founded by Oswi K. of Northumbria, and Peada, son of Penda of Mercia, in 655. It is uncertain whether the place had already become attached to Peterborough when Wilfrith of Northumbria established a small monastery at Oundle, in which he died in 709 ("Defunctus est autem in monasterio suo, quod habebat in provincia Undalum sub regimine Cudualdi abbatis."—Bede, 'H. E.' v. 19. In the 'Sax. Chr.' the name is also written "Undalum"); but the Roman site and ruins may have induced him to build here. His body was conveyed

hence to Ripon. The *Church* remained in the possession of Peterborough until the Dissolution, and it is to that monastery that the construction of the fabric must be assigned. It is built of the local oolite, very full of shells. The ch. has been restored (1864) under *Scott's* direction, and the spire, the date on which, 1634, probably marks a former rebuilding, having become unsafe, has been taken down as far as the uppermost lights, and rebuilt (1874). The nave and aisles are E. Eng., with Dec. windows inserted, and a Dec. clerestory. The transepts and chancel are early Dec., the tower and fine S. porch Perp. In the nave remark the very fine piers and caps., which have the nail-head ornament, and overhang very deeply. The bases are high, and the piers single and round, of a French rather than an English type (comp. Tichmarsh, *ante*). The rough stone-work, in accordance with a fashion among "restorers" not greatly to be commended, has been left exposed in nave and transepts. In the chancel it is plastered. There is a very good east window by *Clayton and Bell;* and a reredos of incised alabaster, the subject being the Last Supper. The organ, by *Walker*, is on the N. side. In the N. transept is another window by *Clayton and Bell*, inserted by the Grocers' Company, which is connected with Laxton's School here (see *post*). There are remains of ancient colouring, a good pattern in red, on the arch opening to the S. aisle from the chancel. The roofs throughout are ancient, but not the original ones. The *pulpit*, dating late in the 14th centy., deserves special attention. The richly decorated panels are coloured in black and red; and gold stars of metal are fixed on the black ground. There is a crypt with groined roof under the S. transept. The church contains no monuments of importance. The *tower*, late Perp., has very tall windows with flamboyant tracery in the belfry stage, and a picturesque, open battlement. The *south porch*, with a parvise, the front of which has 3 niches between the windows, and which has excellent carving—sprays of oak and other foliage—on the stone vaulting, is also late Perp., and according to Leland, was the work of "one Robert Viate (Wyatt), a marchaunt of the towne, and Johan his wife. They made also on the S. side of that chirche yarde a praty almose house of squarid stone, and a goodly large haule over it for the bretherhodde of the chirch. The Scripture in brasse on the almose house doore berith the date . . . 1485." This "praty Almose house" has been rebuilt by *Slater*, together with *Laxton's Grammar School*, which adjoins it. This school was founded by Sir William Laxton, a native of Oundle, and "bred a grocer" in London; where he became Lord Mayor in 1544. (He died in 1556.) There is an alms-house attached; and over the entrance are the lines—

"Undellæ natus, Londini parta labore
Laxtonus posuit senibus puerisq. levamen."

It is asserted that "Zion Chapel," in West Street, occupies the site of Wilfrith's Monastery. This is on the highest part of the ridge, overlooking the river, but there is no authority whatever for determining the site of that venerable house, which must have been one of the earliest centres of Christianity among the Middle Angles. Oundle was the birthplace, in the reign of Eliz., of a fierce enthusiast named William Hacket, who attempted to play the part of John of Leyden, and proclaimed himself the Messiah. He had two attendants, whom he called his prophets of mercy and of judgment. All three were apprehended in London, and Hacket was hanged in Cheapside in 1591.

The northern portion of Northamptonshire, which retains much of its ancient forest character, is without railways; and Oundle will be found the best centre from which to make one or two excursions of interest. One round may be to the "New and Old buildings" at *Lyveden;* thence to *Brigstock* and *Farming-woods;* returning to Oundle by *Benefield.* A second expedition may embrace *Cotterstock* and *Tansor*, the great oaks of *Morhay Lawn*, *Woodnewton*, *Apethorpe*, and *Kingscliffe*, from which place the Wansford stat. on the L. & N. W. Rly. may be reached, or the return may be made to Oundle. *Fotheringhay* is 4 m. N. of Oundle, and may be visited thence; but it is easily reached from the Elton station on the rly. (See *post.*)

(a) The *Lyveden buildings* are about 5 m. S.W. of Oundle and well deserve a visit. Both the "old build" and the "new build" as they are locally called) were the work (the first probably, the second certainly) of Sir Thomas Tresham, father of Francis Tresham, famous for his connection with the "Gunpowder Plot." The Treshams, whose chief Northamptonshire property was at Rushton near Kettering (see Rte. 12), acquired Lyveden in the reign of Hen. VI. Sir Thomas, the builder here, was by birth a Protestant, and was knighted by Q. Eliz. at her famous visit to Kenilworth in 1577. Within 3 years of that date, after the missionary priests came into England, he was converted by Campian, and reconciled to the Church of Rome. Thenceforward he suffered much on account of his belief, being heavily fined and repeatedly imprisoned as a "Popish recusant," that is, as one of those who refused to attend the Protestant worship. Before the death of Eliz., much encouragement had been secretly given by James to the Romanists, in order to gain their support, and considerable expectations had certainly been raised in the mind of Sir Thomas Tresham. He was one of the first, at no little personal risk, to proclaim James at Northampton; and his son Francis (afterwards the conspirator), with his brother Lewis and their brother-in-law, Lord Monteagle (to whom the well-known letter was written), were very active on the same occasion in supporting the E. of Salisbury in London. Within 3 months after the arrival of James in England, Sir Thomas Tresham, with other Romanists, was invited to court, and was assured that it was the intention of the king to allow greater freedom in the exercise of religious worship, and especially to relieve all Romanists from the burden of the fines imposed by the statute of Eliz. Accordingly, the fines for recusancy, which in the last year of Eliz.'s reign amounted to 10,000*l.*, were reduced to 300*l.* in the first of James. It thus appears that Sir Thomas Tresham was reasonably expecting much indulgence and relaxation in the severe laws "against harbouring of Popish priests and professors;" and it was, no doubt, with this expectation that he began the "*new build*," which, it has been conjectured, was intended for a religious house, and is at any rate covered with symbols and inscriptions, such as in the days of Elizabeth would hardly have been tolerated. It stands on high ground, in an open space round which woods close up on almost every side. The plan is that of a Greek cross. The entrance was on the N. side, immediately opposite the arm which contained the staircase; and the archways bear on their keystones the arms of Tresham (the founder), and of his wife, a Throckmorton. The rooms in the interior were numerous, and there are large and deep oriel windows at the termination of each limb of the cross. But by far the most remark-

able features of the building are the sculptures and inscriptions, which run, the former above the second story, the latter above the third. The sculptures are in roundels, and represent the emblems of Our Lord's Passion and Crucifixion,—the purse, the lanthorn, torches, spear, and sword; the cross, ladder, hammer, and nails; the seamless garment and dice; the crowing cock and the scourges. There are also the X.P. within a wreath, on the upper part of which is a T. for Tresham, and I.H.S. with a cross, and "Esto mihi" round the border. These subjects are repeated so as to encircle the whole building, and have been executed with much care. Round the uppermost story are (or were—they have been much ruined and defaced) the following sentences in capitals: —"Jesus mundi salus + Gaude mater Virgo Maria + Verbum autem crucis pereuntibus quidem stultitia est + Jesu beatus venter qui te portavit + Maria mater virgo sponsa innupta + Benedixit tibi Deus in æternum Maria + Mihi autem absit gloriari nisi in cruce Domini nostri." Round the lowest story are numerous shields for arms, some of which are unfinished, and others have their outlines barely traced. All this, together with the general condition of the building, indicates that the work was abandoned in haste; and, according to Bridges, it was never roofed in. It was probably begun by Sir Thomas Tresham immediately on the accession of James. There is no reason for believing that he had any knowledge whatever of the plot in which his son was involved; and he died in 1605. His eldest son Francis, who succeeded him, was in the Tower within two months of his father's death, and died there before the end of a third month. Rushton was confiscated, but Lyveden was allowed to pass to the next brother Lewis, who had no care to finish the "new build," and it sank into its present condition, a ruin whose desolate chambers are lined with wild plants and low elder-bushes. Bridges asserts that "when Major Butler with a detachment of the Parliament forces was in these parts, he was not able to demolish this house, but he caused the timber to be sawed out of the walls, and, carrying it to Oundle, built with it that house which is now Major Creed's."

Sir Thomas Tresham was a zealous architect. "Hard to say," writes Fuller, "whether greater his delight, or skill in buildings, though more forward in beginning, than fortunate in finishing, his fabricks." Like the "new build," he left a market house at Rothwell (the town near his house of Rushton) unfinished, but with a design which resembles that of the Lyveden building; and at Rushton itself the remarkable triangular lodge remains, to bear witness to the same love of emblematical sculpture on the part of the designer, as is shown here. (See Rte. 12).

The *old building* at Lyveden lies close under the new, and is now a substantial and picturesque farmhouse. Much of it seems to be Elizabethan; and, as Sir Thomas succeeded to all this property early in that reign, it is probably his work. In the house is a fine staircase, resembling that in the present rectory at Pilton, which formerly was the manor-house, and belonged to another branch of the Treshams (see *ante*). This old building displays no sign of the peculiar style which at a later period was affected by Sir Thomas. Leland mentions "parte of an auncient manor place, and godely medows aboute it," as existing at Lyveden when he visited it, and there still remain, above the old building, mounds and terraces, with large moats or fish-tanks, which may mark the site of such a "manor," con-

verted in later days into a "pleasaunce." The lordship of Lyveden (the termination "den" indicates its position in the midst of the forest of Rockingham), extended into several parishes—Brigstock, Benefield, the Aldwincles, and Pilton,—and indeed may have been in a certain sense extra-parochial, as having been at first a grant or a settlement within the royal forest.

2 m. E. of Lyveden is the village of *Brigstock* (so named from a bridge over the Harper's Brook, which runs through it), a manor in the heart of the old forest, where the very early work in the *Church*, restored by *Slater* and *Carpenter*, should attract the antiquary. This has been called Saxon, and the greater part of the building has been considered to be earlier than the Conquest. There is a rude triangular-headed doorway, and a round-headed stilted arch into the chancel. The whole deserves careful examination. The church was given by Hen. I. to Cirencester Abbey. In the parish, and a short distance N. of the village, is *Farmingwoods* (Lord Lyveden), with some fine remains of ancient wood about it. The house contains a few good pictures, including portraits by Sir *Joshua Reynolds*. About ½ m. W. on the boundary of the parish is a stone with the inscription, "Here in this plaes stood Bocase Tree,"—a boundary of the forest. The word "Bocase" has not been explained.

The return to Oundle may be by *Benefield*, where the church was rebuilt in 1847 (except the chancel). It is elaborately decorated, and there is much stained glass (architect, *Derrick of Oxford*). On high ground adjoining are the moats and foundations of a small castle, which was held by Nicholas of Bassingbourne in the reign of Henry III. The great "lawn" of Benefield, and of those open spaces within the forest, of which Morhay (see *post*) is now the best example, was, says Leland, "spatious and faire to course in." It was separated from the parish, to which it did not really belong, although named from it.

(b). *Morhay Lawn* may be the main object of a second expedition, which may be continued to *Kingscliffe*.

The road from Oundle follows the l. bank of the river, and at 2 m. reaches *Cotterstock*; where the church is worth a visit, but where the chief interest lies in Dryden's associations with the place. *Cotterstock Hall* (Marquis of Huntly) was the house of his cousin, Mrs. Steward, daughter of Mrs. Creed, of Tichmarsh, the painter of so many church decorations and monuments, and the daughter of Sir Gilbert Pickering. Mrs. Steward was herself an artist; and Malone asserts that "the hall of Cotterstock House was painted in fresco by her, in a very masterly style, and she drew several portraits of her friends in Northamptonshire." John Dryden frequently visited her at this place; and Bridges tells us that he wrote his 'Fables' here, and spent the last two summers of his life at Cotterstock. (He died May 1, 1700). This, however, is not true. He was busy with the 'Fables' throughout 1698 and 1699, and although he visited Cotterstock in the summer of either year, it is clear, from the dates of his letters, that neither of these visits exceeded three weeks or a month. He describes himself at other times as "still drudging at a book of Miscellanyes" (the Fables), "which I hope will be well enough;" and if he did anything to them in the country, it can only have been in the way of retouching. "If your house be often so molested," he writes to Mrs. Steward, referring to his own visits, "you will have reason to be weary of it before the ending of the year; and wish Cotterstock were planted

"in a desart, an hundred miles off from any poet." "Marrow puddings" and "chines of honest bacon" were sent by Mrs. Steward to the poet in London; and of the few letters of Dryden which exist, several were written to his cousins here. The picturesque house adjoins the road, from which a wide avenue opens to the entrance. It is, perhaps, of Tudor date, but has been much altered and changed, and Mrs. Steward's frescoes no longer decorate the hall. The largely developed chancel of Cotterstock *Church* is due to the college (for a provost and 13 chaplains) founded here in 1337, the 11th year of Ed. III., by John Giffard, Canon of York. He endowed his new foundation with the manor of Cotterstock, the advowson of the church, mills and fisheries on the Nen, and some additional land. The College had liberty to appropriate the church to themselves; and accordingly the large chancel was built soon after the new foundation, and is (curvilinear) Dec. The rest of the church is somewhat earlier,—the tower, E. Eng., circ. 1240, with very beautiful lights in the belfry stage (one is figured in the 'Glossary'). The nave is of the same date. In the chancel is a *brass* for Robert Wyntryngham, canon of Lincoln, and Provost of Cotterstock, d. 1420. He wears a cope.

Across the river is *Tansor*, where the *Church* is remarkable for a very long nave, and a most diminutive chancel. The church was originally Norman, and in the E. Eng. period it would seem that the Norm. chancel was thrown into the nave, which was partly rebuilt, but with old materials. The existing short chancel was then added, together with a W. tower. "The internal aspect of the church is most singular, from the great variety and irregularity of the pillars and arches of its long nave," which has a very perceptible ascent in the pavement toward the E., besides a slope at nearly an equal angle toward the S. There are 6 arches N. and 5 S. The piers throughout, both of Norm. and of later date, are tall columns, the Norman being far lighter than is usual in that style. The whole of the arches and their soffetes are covered with coloured decorations, imitated from ancient ones discovered on a removal of whitewash. There are some rude stalls among the sittings in the nave, which may have belonged to an older arrangement of the chancel, when (as is probable) it extended into the nave. Those at present in the chancel are much better, and are said to have come from Fotheringhay (see *Gent. Mag.*, Oct. 1861). There is a *brass* for John Colt, rector, d. 1440.

[A very interesting *Church*, and one well deserving a visit, is that of *Warmington*, 1½ m. E. It is throughout E. Eng. with the original nave roof, *groined in wood*. There is a western tower with spire. The portal has 4 rows of shafts, and is richly ornamented with dog-tooth and open flowers. The belfry lights are much ornamented, and the broach spire has 3 rows of spire lights, surmounted by very elegant crosses. The windows of the S. aisle are triplets,—those of the N. are couplets of lancets, with enrichment above. The wooden groining of the nave (of 5 bays) starts from stone springers. The ribs spring from small shafts, terminating in capitals of exquisite foliage, which are supported on corbels, representing for the most part priests and bishops. Similar shafts, with equally beautiful foliage, support the second order of mouldings of the chancel arch, of which the capitals alone remain. The flatness of the roofs, which seem of the original pitch, deserves especial notice. The

adoption of wooden groining, instead of stone, which appears to have been at first intended, was perhaps suggested by an apparent weakness of the walls. Warmington was, before the Conquest, in the hands of the "abbot and convent" of Peterborough, and remained with them until the Dissolution. This church, like that of Polebrook and many others, sufficiently indicates the care and cost bestowed on their outlying manors by that great abbey.]

A good distant view of the tower and lanthorn of Fotheringhay church (see *post*), one of the great landmarks of this district, opens rt. across the Nen, and above the masses of trees which encircle it, as we proceed from Cotterstock; and at a bend of the river (1½ m.) the road turns off N.W. towards *Wood Newton*,—a name which indicates that we are approaching what was anciently one of the closest parts of the great Rockingham forest. The church has a remarkable Dec. window, — triangular-headed. 1 m. farther we reach *Apethorpe* (E. of Westmoreland,—a house of some interest. Apethorpe (in some early documents called 'Apelthorpe') became the property of Sir Walter Mildmay in the reign of Ed. VI. This Sir Walter, son of Thomas Mildmay, of Chelmsford, became Chancellor of the Exchequer, and, himself a zealous Puritan, was the founder of Emmanuel College in Cambridge. His house at Apethorpe and that college were built on a similar plan, with a double quadrangle. His son, Sir Anthony, succeeded him; and his only child and heiress, Mary, became the wife of Sir Francis Fane, created Earl of Westmoreland in 1624. In that family Apethorpe has ever since remained. It has been thus described in verse by one of the most accomplished sons of the house, the late Julian Fane (died 1870):—

"The moss-grey mansion of my father stands
Parked in an English pasturage as fair
As any that the grass-green isle can show.
Above it rise deep-wooded lawns; below
A brook runs riot through the pleasant lands,
And blabs its secrets to the merry air.
The village peeps from out deep poplars, where
A grey bridge spans the stream; and all beyond
In sloping vales and sweet acclivities
The many dimpled, laughing landscape lies.
Four-square, and double-courted, and grey-stoned
Two quaint quadrangles of deep-latticed walls
Grass-grown, and moaned about by troops of doves,
The ancient house! Collegiate in name,
As in its aspect, like the famous Halls,
Whose hoary fronts make reverend the groves
Of Isis, or the banks of classic Cam."
'Memoir' by *R. Lytton*, p 71.

At this house (then apparently not fully completed, since it is asserted that the same king gave timber for building the E. and S. sides) James I. dined on his journey from Scotland in 1603, and it is said gave or allowed the owner to have executed the statue of himself, which is now in the entrance hall. Here also, on a later visit, in 1614, he saw for the first time George Villiers, destined to become the powerful Duke of Buckingham. There had been some plotting to present a new favourite to the king; and Villiers, then a lad of 16 or 17, was brought to Apethorpe by Anthony Cade, of Bettesworth. Apartments, called the king's and the duke's chambers, are still shown, and on the chimney-piece of the latter is a representation of the ship which carried Prince Charles and the Duke to Spain; and beneath it a hand supporting a ducal coronet and the Prince's feather. There is a long and fine wainscotted gallery, with a richly ornamented ceiling, and at the end, a portrait of Sir Walter Mildmay, founder of the house. It was he who, with Sir Amyas Paulet, delivered Elizabeth's letter to Q. Mary at Fotheringhay;

and he had been one of those who sate on her trial. Here is also the "lively portraiture" of the Lady Grace, wife of Sir Anthony Mildmay, who, according to a tradition of the house, "walks" on certain nights, scattering silver pennies behind her. This is probably a recollection of her charity in life. It is recorded on her monument in the church that she was "helpful with phisick, cloathes, nourishment, or counsels to any in misery." She founded "four quarterly sermons," besides leaving money for the poor and for putting out apprentices. Other *pictures* to be specially noted are 2 fine *Vandycks*, Rachel, daughter of Francis, 1st Earl of Westmoreland, a full length, in white; "an elegant picture in his latest silvery tones"—*Waagen;* and James Stuart, D. of Richmond, full-length (known by Earlom's engraving). George Villiers, æt. 16; and another at a more advanced age by *Janssen.* By *Sir Joshua Reynolds* are—Earl of Westmoreland in a garden. He wears a rich suit of red velvet, and the picture, which remains unfaded, is "a masterpiece of colouring and vigorous movement."—The son of this Earl;—and a young Earl, seated between his two guardians, who are standing,—a picture much faded in the flesh tones, but one of the capital works of the master. There is also a good head of Lady Westmoreland, with one of her children, by *Sir Thomas Lawrence.* In an apartment especially designed and arranged for the purpose by the late Mr. Cockerell, are plaster casts of the family of Niobe (in Waagen's judgment "the most important specimen of Greek sculpture which has descended to us"), a present from the Grand Duke of Tuscany to the late (the 11th) Earl, who was for many years minister at his court.

In the *Church* of Apethorpe which is not very noticeable, is the monument, with effigies, of Sir Anthony Mildmay, son of the builder of the house, and his wife, daughter of Sir Henry Sherington, of Laycock, in Wilts. There is a lofty canopy, and around are figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity, Justice, Wisdom, and Devotion. The monument was erected by their son-in-law, Sir Francis Fane. In Bridge's time the east window retained much stained glass, with the date 1621, the gift, no doubt, of the same Sir Francis, afterwards the 1st Earl.

A Roman "vicinal way," still in great part to be traced, ran from Fotheringhay to Stamford, where it joined the Ermine Street; and a considerable Roman villa was discovered in 1858, in the park of Apethorpe, at the back of the house. The site is low, raised but little above the Willow-brook (the "brook" of Julian Fane's verses). There were many rooms, two of which retained pavements arranged in graceful patterns, the material being terra-cotta tessellæ, mixed with others of a dark grey, on a white ground. The whole formed an irregular court, surrounded by groups of buildings. There were baths, supplied with water from the rising ground behind, which is full of springs. The pottery found was from the kilns of Castor (Durobrivæ, see *post*). Among the coins was a silver Severus, and, a 3rd brass of Constantine the Great. Remains of a similar villa have been found at Cotterstock; and, as has already been said, Roman relics are scattered over all this part of Northamptonshire,—the ironstone (certainly worked at that period), and the great woods for hunting, having attracted a considerable population.

The park of Apethorpe comprises a considerable extent of ground; and *Morhay Lawn* was anciently included in it. The park, and all this domain, formed part of the grant from Edward VI. to Sir Walter Mildmay; and had been crown land,

included in the forest of Rockingham. The "lawn" (the true old forest term) deserves a visit. A road through fields from Apethorpe leads to it, passing at the back of the house, where are some fine small-leaved elms, and an ancient dovecot. Apethorpe Lodge, a stone farm-house, is seen on the top of the hollow, W. The lawn itself is an open grassy space, with a hollow in the centre, to which the ground slopes each way. Round it are many pieces of wood, with much deep undergrowth of brake and tangled brushwood. On the E. side of the hollow are many old thorns gathered into groups. On the W. are the *Morhay oaks*, famous old trees, of unknown age, much shattered, and many of them hollowed. A few are still in full leaf. Others have only thinly clothed boughs, with projecting splinters of ribbed wood. The largest oak is about 20 ft. 6 in. in circumference at a foot from the ground. There are, perhaps, 20 or 30 trees; and some elder antiquaries found here a double circle of oaks, and held that Morhay was a "Druidical centre." The circles are really as shadowy as the Druids. One local authority asserts that the trees "were there before the deluge." Another compares them to the "fleet at Spithead;" and although they are no longer "hearts of oak," they may not unfairly suggest some such gathering with their vast trunks "anchored" over the lawn. From the highest point of the lawn a wooded country is commanded, passing far away into a blue distance, with spires breaking upwards at intervals. The whole scene is wild and pleasant. The "hay" of "Morhay" occurs over the forest region (Fotheringhay, Woodhay)—and signifies a "haia" or "hedged" enclosure for restraining the deer.

The village of *Kingscliffe* is 1½ m. N.W. of Apethorpe. There was here a small royal hunting-lodge, and adjoining was Cliffe Park, an enclosed portion of Rockingham forest, of which the keepership was granted by the crown to the Cecils. The church of Kingscliffe (restored 1863) is of no great interest. Law, the author of the well-known 'Serious Call' was born here; and there are some memorials of his family in the church. Kingscliffe is about 4 m. from *Wansford Stat.* on the L. and N. W. Rly.—by which the return may be made to Oundle.

From Oundle, the rly., more than once crossing the winding Nen, reaches

Elton Stat. (Warmington ch. and spire are see rt. (see *ante*)—and the mound and church of Fotheringhay are passed close at hand before Elton Stat. is reached).

This is the best point for the pedestrian who desires to make his way to *Fotheringhay*, distant 1½ m. W. There is a pleasant field-path from Elton (inquire for it at the station).

The octagon of Fotheringhay church, seen above the trees which encircle the village, serves as some sort of guide in the walk from Elton station. The country here is gently undulating, very flat toward the south along the valley of the Nen, but eastward and northward rising gradually toward the higher ground of Rockingham forest, above Apethorpe. The village of Fotheringhay is, as in Leland's time, "but one streat, al of stone building. The glorie of it standith by the paroche chirche of a fair buildid, and collegiatid." "There be," he adds, "exceeding goodly meadowes by Foderingey"—and the level pastures along the left bank of the Nen gave name to the place—the "hay" or enclosure (see *ante, Morehay lawn*) of the "fodder" meadow (*ing*). A line of ancient way, connected with the Ermine Street, here crossed the

river by a ford a little below the village; and it was to guard this ford that the great mound on which the Castle keep afterwards stood, was thrown up, possibly by some Anglian or Danish possessor. (Similar mounds occur frequently along the banks of the Nen and the Ouse, —as at Clifford near Northampton (see *ante*). Their date is uncertain, and Roman relics have been found in and near some. In most cases, however, they appear to be later than the English conquest.) The first true castle here was probably the work of Simon of Senlis, also the builder of Northampton Castle (see Rte. 1). Fotheringhay had belonged to the Countess Judith, and passed to her daughter, wife of Earl Simon,—who carried it, with the Earldom of Huntingdon, to David of Scotland, whom she married secondly. The manor continued in the hands of the Scottish princes and their descendants until it came at last to Devorguilla, daughter of Alan of Galloway, and wife of John of Baliol. They were the founders of Baliol College in Oxford, of which a certain Walter of Fotheringhay, appointed by them, was the first master. The Scottish holding of Fotheringhay ceased with the son of John and Devorguilla—the John Baliol who became king of Scotland. There was a short tenancy by John of Bretagne, E. of Richmond, and his granddaughter, Mary of Chatillon, foundress of Pembroke Hall in Cambridge; and the Honour of Huntingdon, which included this castle, was then granted by Ed. III. to his 5th son, Edmund of Langley, then a minor, and created D. of York in the 9th year of his nephew, Richard II. Henceforth Fotheringhay became the principal and most favoured residence of the Plantagenets of York. Edmund of Langley rebuilt the greater part of the castle, and paid special attention to the keep, which he caused to be constructed in the form of a fetterlock, the "falcon and fetterlock" being the device assumed by him and his descendants. He also made the old parish church collegiate, and rebuilt the choir, in which the body of his son Edward, who succeeded him as D. of York, and who fell at Agincourt, was solemnly interred. (Edward of York commanded the vanguard of archers in the battle, and did good service. He was, according to Leland, stifled in his armour during the heat and "throng" of the fight. His body was brought back to England.) Richard of York, who married Cicely Neville—the Plantagenet of Shakespeare's scene in the Temple gardens, the York who fell at Wakefield, and whose head was set by Queen Margaret above Micklegate Bar,

> "That York might overlook the town of York"—

was the next possessor. Ed. IV. removed the head of his father, and conveyed it, with the body, to Fotheringhay, together with the body of his brother, the young Earl of Rutland, killed at Wakefield by the "butcher Clifford." They were buried in the choir, in the presence of the king, the queen, and of a great company of churchmen. The long procession had moved onward from Pontefract (where the body had been first laid to rest) in great splendour, and Richard of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III., rode behind the great funeral car. The widow of Richard of York, the Duchess Cicely, made Fotheringhay her principal residence during the 36 years that she survived her husband. He had completed the church begun by Edmund of Langley; and after her death at Berkhampstead in 1495, she also was interred in the choir here. Henry VII. settled Fotheringhay on his Queen Elizabeth, the "white rose of York;" and afterwards made it a portion of the

dowry of Catherine of Arragon on her marriage to Prince Arthur. She liked the place, and according to Leland "did great costs of refreshing it." The rest of the story of the castle will best be told on the site itself. This site, with the *church*, and the ancient *hostel* at the castle gates, are the places of interest to be visited in Fotheringhay.

In approaching from Elton, the long village street is first entered west of the church. Passing the church for the present, we proceed to the eastern end of the street—where on the l. stands the hostel (now a farmhouse)—certainly built by Edward IV., and perhaps in preparation for the great assemblage of persons at the funeral of Richard of York. It has been much restored, and the interior is almost entirely modern. The main portal remains, and is very picturesque, with ornamented spandrels, a row of graceful foiled openings above the main arch, a window for the porter's chamber, above, and shields of arms serving as terminations for the outer mouldings. The inner court was once surrounded with galleries. The hostel served especially for the accommodation of strangers visiting the castle; and during the trial of the Q. of Scots, when the castle was filled with her train, and with the soldiers of Sir Amyas Paulet, the commissioners and judges sent down from London were compelled to house themselves in this building, and elsewhere in the village. The lords brought large retinues with them; and at least 2000 horse were quartered in Fotheringhay itself and in the neighbourhood.

Close beyond the hostel a farm gate opens to the fields over which extend the foundations of the *Castle*. The great keep mound rises in front, and on climbing to its summit we see at once the true position of the place. The Nen flows close under the mound, and effectually defended the southern front of the castle. Beyond it, a wide view is commanded over all the level country S. and S.W., and the "forest ridges" stretch away N. and W. beyond corn-fields and pasture-land. The mound itself is covered with foundations of the fetterlock tower raised on it by Richard of York; and a fragment of ruined wall, looking like a great mass of conglomerate, lies close below, on the bank of the river. A moat, full of green water-flags, encloses the mound, and what was the inner court of the castle N. and E. Beyond this moat on the N. was the outer bailey, marked, like the rest of the ground, by traces of old walls and divisions; and there was again (as appears from a survey of 1625, the last year of King James) an outer moat, enclosing the whole. In the inner court, and at the foot of the mound, was the great hall, described as "wonderful spacious,"—the chapel and "goodly lodgings." The castle was dismantled and "slighted," not by James I., as is usually asserted, but soon after the survey made in his last year. The buildings were sold piece by piece. The great hall was bought by Sir Robert Cotton, the antiquary, and removed by him to Conington in Huntingdonshire. Some other portions were used for building a chapel at Fineshade, in the neighbourhood; and, about the middle of the last century, the last portions of the walls that remained were employed in constructing certain dykes and fences connected with the navigation of the Nen.

Queen Mary was brought here from Chartley in Staffordshire, in September, 1586. She was conducted to Fotheringhay by Sir Amyas Paulet, who remained about her, and was placed under the care of Sir William Fitzwilliam of Milton, then constable of the castle. There had been much discussion as to the place to which she should be

removed. Hertford Castle, Northampton, and Woodstock were named —but to all there were greater objections than to Fotheringhay, still a strong place, and at a sufficient distance from the sea and from London. The Queen of Scots passed here the last 5 months of her life, closely watched, and not allowed to take her usual exercise on horseback, or to proceed beyond the castle gates. It was the first true prison house she had entered; and it is said that as she first caught sight of the castle towers she exclaimed "Pereo"—with a presentiment that she was about to enter the last of her English abodes. Here took place her trial before the Judges and Commissioners; and here in the great hall (which Elizabeth had herself suggested as a more fitting place than the courtyard or the green) she was beheaded, Feb. 8, 1586–7. The castle courts were thronged with people while the memorable scene was enacted within the hall; and the severed head, on a cushion of black velvet, was exposed to their view for an hour, from one of the large windows. The body of the queen remained here for six months after the execution; and on the 1st of August, 1587, it was conveyed to Peterborough Cathedral and interred there. (See *post*, Peterborough.) Her servants were detained at Fotheringhay for 3 months longer, and were only allowed to depart on the earnest representations of James of Scotland. A signet ring bearing the initials of Darnley and Q. Mary—H.M.—connected by love-knots, and having within the hoop a shield with the royal lion of Scotland and the name and date, "Henri L. Darnley, 1565," was found among the ruins here about 1830, and is now in the Waterton collection at S. Kensington. (The most vivid account of the last days of Q. Mary here, and of her death, will be found in *Froude's* 'Hist.' vol. xii.)

Some large old thorn-trees grow on the site of the hall. The lodgings occupied by the queen adjoined it at the S. end; and had probably been those in which Elizabeth herself was lodged on a progress during which she visited Fotheringhay, and directed the reconstruction of the royal tombs in the church. (See *post.*) When Fuller visited the castle, he read, traced by a diamond in Mary's well-known handwriting, in the window of one of the lodging chambers—

> "From the top of all my trust,
> Mishap hath laid me in the dust."

The scene we look upon from the mound is little changed since the unhappy queen beheld it day after day in its winter dress—with the Nen everywhere flooding the lowlands.

From the castle we turn to the *Church*, which stands a little higher up the river, but still on the bank. Only the nave remains, and this suggests the former "glory" of Fotheringhay even more distinctly than the castle. When complete it must have been a church of unusual stateliness even for this country. It was of course Perpendicular throughout; begun by Edmund of Langley (who made it collegiate) and completed by that Richard of York who fell at Wakefield. Edward IV. added a "fair cloister" and erected over the tombs of his father and brother what Leland calls a "pratie chapel." On the suppression of the college under Ed. VI., the nave alone was retained for the use of the parishioners. The noble choir fell into ruin; and when Q. Eliz. visited the place she found the "pratie chapel" and the tombs of her ancestors shattered, neglected, and open to the wind and rain. She caused the bodies to be removed into the existing nave, and ordered the erection of the monuments which remain on either side of the altar.

Entering the church, we are struck by the fine and lofty Perp. arches, the great clerestory, the noble windows of the aisles, and the western tower arch with the groined vaulting beyond it. The whole bears the stamp of something far more dignified than a mere village church. The lofty aisle windows, 4 on each side, are especially noticeable. They were filled with stained glass, rich with figures of saints and prophets, and ablaze with all the bearings of the House of York, and the shields of France and of England. This glass survived all earlier troubles, but was shattered and stolen in the last century, through the carelessness of indifferent rectors and churchwardens. On either side of the altar are the monuments erected by order of Q. Eliz. They are tolerably good in design, but by no means of any great importance. A broad cornice is supported by fluted shafts with enriched caps., and brief inscriptions record that each was "made in the year of our Lord 1573." On the S. lies Edward of York, killed at Agincourt, and son of Edmund of Langley, builder of the vanished choir. On the N. are interred Richard D. of York, killed at Wakefield (father of Ed. IV.), and his Duchess Cicely. Here also is laid the young E. of Rutland. On a tablet in the S. aisle are the following lines, which record the beginning of the present church, and have been repainted or copied from the original inscription:—

"In Festi Martyrii processu Martiniani,
Ecclesiæ prima fuit hujus petra locata.
Anno Christi centum quatuor ac mille
cum deca quinta.
Henrici quinti tunc imminente secundo."

The date thus given is 1415. The font is very good Perp. raised on steps; and the original pulpit remains, with a later (Jacobæan) canopy. The nave roof is original, but very plain. Altogether, this ch. is one of the best examples in the kingdom for the study of the Perp. style; not only from the purity and beauty of the mouldings of doors, windows, and piers, but because the original contract for the work (the building of the nave) is still in existence (it will be found in the 'Monasticon,' and was published separately at Oxford in 1841), and its several details may be compared with the existing architecture. The contract is between William Woolston and Thomas Pecham, commissaries of the Duke of York, and William Harwod, freemason, of Fotheringhay. The duke was to find "carriage and stuff;" Harwod was to receive 300*l.* sterling, at different periods.

There are matrices of two brasses; and near the altar an inscription for Mr. Thomas, "Scholemaster of Fodringhay," 33 years, who died in 1589, and was perhaps present in the court of the castle when Queen Mary was beheaded. "Pædotriba bonus," begin the verses, "jacet hic sub marmore tectus."

The massive tower is surmounted by a lofty octagon, having a large Perp. window in each of its sides. The aisles have pinnacled buttresses, and flying buttresses are carried across to the top of the clerestory windows. "Either of the said aisles," runs the contract, "shall have six mighty arches, butting on either side to the clerestory." The cloister built by Edward IV. was on the S. side of the nave, and has entirely disappeared. Leland saw the windows filled with figures, and "verses of the book caullid *Æthiopum terras*," the "Eclogue" of Theodulus, died 480; "de Miraculis Vet. Test." The college consisted of a master, 12 chaplains, 8 clerks, and 13 choristers. The ground on which the buildings stood had been assigned by Simon of Senlis to a house of Cluniac nuns, afterwards removed to Delaprè.

A rude wooden bridge, which had

been constructed across the old ford of the Nen, was replaced by a stone bridge in 1573. Stukeley saw this bridge, with an inscription recording that it was "made by Q. Eliz.," and above, "God save the Queen"—the latter words half hacked away by (it was said) the swords of Cromwell's Ironsides. In 1722 the whole gave place to the bridge which now exists.

In 6 minutes from Elton stat., the train reaches

Sibson Stat.; whence a short branch line runs northward to *Stamford.* [This line has *stations* at *Wansford Road*, at *Ufford Bridge*, and at *Barnack.* In the church of *Wansford* is a remarkable Norm. font, and a fine Norm. portal beneath a Grecian porch, dating 1663. The church of *Wittering* lies to the l. of Ufford Road Stat., and is interesting for the extent of its Saxon remains. There is "long-and-short work" at the angles of both chancel and nave; and as the chancel arch seems to be also of earlier date than the Conquest, we have the ground-plan of the original church. The work at the angles projects, so as to form a narrow and shallow pilaster. The chancel arch is very rude and massive, the caps. immense blocks, without moulding or decoration. A Norm. N. aisle was added to this first ch.; and the arches somewhat resemble those at Barnack. The tower and spire are E. Eng., and there are Dec. insertions in the ch. Wittering belonged to the Abbey of Peterborough before the Conquest.

Barnack Church is one of the most remarkable in England, but is best visited from Stamford. It is fully described in Rte. 3.]

1 m. N. of Sibson Stat. is the little Norm. ch. of Sutton, worth notice. There is a singular low chancel screen of stone; and along the wall of the S. aisle a stone bench, terminated by a couching lion with a monster on its back. The bench is probably coeval with the fabric. The N. door is E. Eng.

The Nen, running N. to Wansford, there makes a great bend toward the S. It is crossed by the rly. at Sibson; and the next *stat.* is

Castor. Here there are two objects of interest: the *Church*, and the *Roman station.*

The Roman settlement of *Durobrivæ* lay on both sides of the river; and the names of *Castor* on the left bank, and *Chesterton* on the right, indicate that they both represent it, or outworks connected with it. (The northern form "Castor" and the southern "Chester" are here brought into close juxtaposition. It is not easy to account for the difference. The former may perhaps be more Danish than Anglian.)

The *Church* of Castor is chiefly noticeable for its very fine late Norm. tower. This is central; and over the priest's door in the present chancel is a dedication stone, removed from the Norm. chancel, and still quite legible. The inscription runs XV. KL. MAI. Dedicatio hujus ecclesie. A.D. M.C. XXIIII., thus recording the dedication as having taken place April 17, 1124. But the last figures were carved at a much later date than the rest, and are incised instead of standing in relief; and the date thus given would not be trustworthy but for its confirmation by the 'Peterborough Chronicle' (sub ann. 1124). To this Norm. church aisles were added about the middle of the 13th centy., abutting against the W. walls of the original transepts, and blocking their windows. The chancel was rebuilt (or took the place of a Norm. apse) somewhat earlier; and the walls of the transepts were raised. On the *exterior* remark especially the Norm. tower, which rises in two stages above the roof. The lower stage

has windows of two lights; the upper an arcade of five arches, three of which are pierced for belfry windows. All the walls are covered with rich designs, introducing square, billet, hatchet, and scalloped ornaments; but shallow, and such as would not require the use of a chisel. The spire is of the 14th centy., and rises within a cumbrous parapet of the same date. The lofty roof of the transept is due to the raising and alteration of the Norm. walls in the 13th centy. *Within*, the nave arcades are of the 13th centy., that on the S. side, with round piers and arches, and the nail-head ornament in the caps. being the earlier. The N. arcade has octagonal piers and pointed arches. The tower is raised on four massive piers, of which the caps. and bases were restored in 1851. Two caps. of the N.E. pier are entirely new, the originals having been destroyed to make room for a monument. The carving of the old work, rich with figures of men and animals, unlike that of the exterior, must have required the chisel. The N. transept is separated from the aisle by a stone screen, consisting of open quatrefoils below supporting a series of niches, the central niche having a pedestal for the figure of St. Kyneburh, to whom the ch. is ded. (see *post*). This screen formed the reredos behind the altar of the N. aisle, which was probably ded. to the saint. A staircase in the transept leads to the bells, and above the roof is a curious priest's chamber. The S. transept is much more spacious than the N., and has an eastern aisle. There is an inscription cut in the wood round the door of the S. aisle, which runs "Ricardus Beby rector ecclesie de Castre fecit," but no rector of this name occurs in any registers. The chancel is raised five steps; and its E. Eng. rebuilders retained or replaced the Norm. sedilia. There is a double piscina, richly carved with dog-tooth. The roofs of nave and transepts are Perp., with shield-bearing angels. They were restored, together with the whole ch., in 1851. There are no monuments of importance. In the ch.-yd. is part of a Saxon cross.

From the restoration until 1851, the living of Castor was attached to the see of Peterborough, and was held in commendam with it. The manor and advowson belonged to the great abbey from a very early period until the Dissolution. St. Kyneburh, whose name as a patron saint is preserved only in this parish, was one of 4 drs. of Penda, K. of the Mercians, and was the wife of Alfred, K. of Northumbria. About the year 650 she founded a convent here, among the Roman ruins (in the record of her life the place is called *Dormundceastre*), became herself its abbess, died, and was buried here. Her body and that of her sister, St. Kyniswith, were removed early in the 11th centy. by Abbot Ælfsi to Peterborough; and the remarkable monument now preserved in the "new building" of the cathedral, and long regarded as the memorial of Abbot Hedda and the monks killed by the Danes in 870, far more probably, as Mr. Bloxam has suggested, was placed over the relics of these sisters, since it is certainly not older than the abbacy of Ælfsi, 1005–1055. (See *post, Peterborough Cathedral.*) (The translation of the bodies by Abbot Ælfsi is recorded in the 'A. S. Chron.')

Although the Roman settlement of *Durobrivæ* extended on both sides of the river, the principal entrenchment was on the left bank, nearly opposite Castor Mills. The Ermine Street, running N. from Godmanchester toward Stamford and Lincoln, passed through the stat., and was known as "Lady Coneyborough's Way," from a tradition that when St. Kyneburh was once pursued by a ruffianly assailant, the road un-

rolled itself before her as she fled, and thus enabled her to escape. The stat., now called "the Castles," remains tolerably perfect, in form an irregular hexagon, 2200 ft. long, and 1300 wide, diminishing to 600 ft. at its S. end. It is surrounded by a fosse and vallum. There is a tumulus within the camp; and on the greater part of its area portions of Roman buildings, and much pottery, have been discovered. It is said that a bridge across the Nen formerly existed here, connecting Durobrivæ with its suburb on the opposite bank, where is now the village of Castor. Of this bridge there are no traces; but the whole of the ground occupied by Castor was covered with important Roman buildings, apparently separate villas, or private houses. These remains are for the most part figured in Artis's 'Durobrivæ,' a series of plates (without letter-press or description) published in 1821. Artis discovered numerous tesselated pavements, one of which, of which the design is very good, was laid down in an ante-room to a dairy at Milton (see *post*, Exc. from Peterborough). The tesseræ are for the most part grey, white, red and yellow, and of local manufacture. Nearly all the houses were warmed by hypocaustal chambers; and in one case a room was found lined with slabs of Alwalton marble, and another with white stone tesseræ laid in cement. Few sculptures or inscribed stones have been discovered. A circular miliary stone bore a dedicatory inscription to Hadrian. Many small bronze instruments and ornaments have occurred, and a set of models was found here for casting at once 62 small brass coins; in one of the moulds a coin of Severus had been left. Coins ranging from Galba to Theodosius have been found; and in the neighbourhood of the great entrenchment they were at one time so numerous that an old writer says "a man would really think they had been sown." The main cemetery was outside the S.E. portion of the camp, where many skeletons have been turned up, laid in regular order, but without coffins. On the N.W. side of the camp stone coffins containing skeletons have been found. Other such coffins have occurred on the road between the camp and Chesterton. A little to the E. of the camp was an "ustrina," or place for burning bodies; still covered, when found, with charcoal and ashes, mingled with small fragments of bones and pottery; and in making a turnpike-road towards Wansford, urns of different shapes and colours, some containing coins, but all filled with burnt bones, were found in great numbers.

There was a smaller square camp or outpost at *Chesterton*, about 1 m. S.W. of Durobrivæ, and on the same side of the river. The hamlet of Alwalton, close adjoining, indicates by its name how thickly the country had been covered with Roman buildings; but the great distinction of Durobrivæ was its *pottery*. The local clay was found excellent for the purposes of the potter; and kilns and great works extended round Castor and its neighbourhood for about 20 m. up and down the Nen valley. Roman potters' kilns have been found nowhere else in England so perfect, or in so great numbers. One of these, found in 1822 in Normangate field, "was of a spherical form, 33 in. in diam., and composed of terra-cotta tiles surrounded by curved moulded bricks. Beneath was a furnace, access to which was provided by means of an arched aperture in a wall forming the front of the kiln. Within this kiln were found various vessels, left there by the Roman potter who made them; one, a vase of grey ware, having borders of indented work, and decorative ornaments in raised white clay; another, of dull red colour, with indented sides. The kilns

seem to be of different dates; and the Durobrivian ware was very superior to that made in the Upchurch marshes, and was indeed the best made in this country under the Romans. It occurs glazed and unglazed; red, brown, grey, black, white and cream-coloured. "The vessels, on which are displayed a variety of hunting subjects, representations of fishes, scrolls, and human figures, were all glazed after the figures were laid on; where, however, the decorations are white, the vessels were glazed before the ornaments were added." Some of the vessels are stamped with the name of the potter. The designs are often spirited; and the forms very graceful. Drinking cups, lamps, jars, bottles, bowls and dishes, were made here; and Durobrivian ware found its way over the greater part of Roman Britain. Besides the pottery, iron weapons and ornaments were made here extensively under the Romans; and hatchets, spear and arrow heads, bolts and rings are turned up in great numbers. The native iron ore was used; and the manner in which the metal was extracted was clearly shown in an iron furnace found at Wansford. Durobrivæ was thus a very important centre, and of far greater consequence than its namesake on the Medway—the English Rofes-ceastre = Rochester. In both cases Durobrivæ is the British name Latinized, and refers to the river (Dwr) on which each place stands. The "brivæ" has been variously explained, but seems to signify the ferry, passage, or bridge across the water.

Chesterton House (in Huntingdonshire) was the home of John Driden, first cousin of the poet (who changed his own name to Dryden). "Glorious John" was often here, and it is said wrote the first four verses of his 'Virgil' with a diamond on one of the window panes. The house was pulled down in 1807. John Driden of Chesterton (died 1707) is buried in the village church; and his epitaph concludes with some lines from the epistle in verse which the poet addressed to him, and prefixed to his 'Fables.' The epistle praises the activity of Mr. Driden as a J.P., and as a lover of field-sports: and contains the well-known lines:—

"Better to hunt in fields for health unbought,
Than fee the doctor for a nauseous draught."

The ch. is E. Eng., with a somewhat later broach spire. The details are very good, especially those of the main arcade and of the S. door; but there has been sad mutilation of windows, and the chancel retains no ancient features. Besides the monument of John Driden, there are two for members of the Bevill family, from whom Driden acquired the manor. One of these is for Wm. Bevill, d. 1483; the other, an elaborate structure, with kneeling figures, for Robert Bevill, and his son Sir Robert, d. 1611, and their wives. [Camden describes two large stones, called St. Edmund's stones, standing on a balk called St. Edmunds, and "niched on the top after the manner of arrows, in memory of that saint's death." They are in Castor field, near Gunwade ferry, and were set up to testify that the carriage of Barnack stone that way, across the ferry, to St. Edmundsbury, was "toll free." A local tradition asserted that they marked the places at which arrows fell, shot from Alwalton ch.-yd. by Robin Hood and Little John. (This piece of folk lore is found elsewhere—as at Whitby in Yorkshire.)]

The next *station*,

Overton, serves for the two villages of Overton Waterville and Overton Longueville. Both stand on high ground on the rt. bank of the Nen—in Huntingdonshire. The *Church* of *Overton Longueville* is almost en-

tirely of the early part of the 14th centy. The windows of the chancel E. and S.E. are especially good. The S. aisle was built (1721) of materials brought from the church of Bottlebridge, which was then destroyed and the parish united with that of Overton. Adjoining the N. door is a fresco of St. Christopher. Between the chancel and the N. chantry is the cross-legged effigy of a knight—possibly that of the Longueville who was the builder of the church, with the date of which it agrees. There are monuments for Talbots and Armynes, and for Sir Charles Cope, d. 1781—"distinguished by true greatness, if the great man is the honest one!" A seated figure is the memorial of Lady Mary Seymour, d. 1825; and under the E. window of the chantry an altar-tomb of granite for the 10th Marquis of Huntly, d. 1863. The *Church* of *Overton Waterville* is Dec. with later additions and alterations. The pulpit is here to be noticed. It is of the 16th centy., finely and elaborately carved in oak, with panels and borders of foliage. The details resemble those of the screen in King's College Chapel at Cambridge; and this pulpit is said to have been brought from St. Mary's Church there. The form is octagonal, and over it is suspended an octagonal canopy of similar character, crested with the royal arms.

Beyond Overton the great towers of Peterborough soon appear; and the train reaches

Peterborough Stat. [This is the station for the Great Eastern and the London & N. W. Rlys. It is on the S. side of the Nen (crossed by a bridge from Peterborough), and is about ¾ m. from the Cathedral. The *Gt. Northern Rly. Station* is entered from Cowgate, in the N. part of the city. This station is also used by the *Midland Rly.* Peterborough is thus a great rly. centre and junction. Both stations are large and important; and both the Gt. Northern and the Midland have extensive works, sheds, and warehouses here, which are in fact "railway villages;" the Gt. Northern about 1 m. from the city, at a hamlet called "New England;" the Midland at the hamlet of Spittal. These works afford employment to great numbers of the inhabitants. In 1841 the pop. was 6959. In 1871 it was 15,499; an increase mainly owing to the extension of the rly. system here.]

Peterborough (*Hotels: Gt. Northern*, opposite and close to the Gt. N. station. This is the best. In the city are the *Bull* (good); and the *Angel*. There is a good *Refreshment Room* at the Gt. Northern station, and a tolerable one at the Midland. The principal trains generally halt for ten minutes at Peterborough)—the "burgh of St. Peter"—is one of those English towns (Bury St. Edmund's is another striking example) which have grown up round great monastic establishments, and do not, like Lincoln, York, or Exeter, occupy the sites of British and Roman stations. The monastery here was founded, on the border of the fen country, in 655, by Saxulf, a Mercian thane of great riches and reputation, with the assistance and protection of Peada, King of Mercia, son of the fierce heathen Penda. Peada had himself become a Christian about three years before; and the Christianization of Mercia—which a very few years saw the best governed and best organized province of the Church—began in the same year as that which saw the foundation of Peterborough. The site was in the country of the northern "Gyrvii." or Fen men (*gyr*, A.S. = a fen), long a sort of debateable land between Mercia and East Anglia; but certainly Mercian after the conversion of that kingdom.

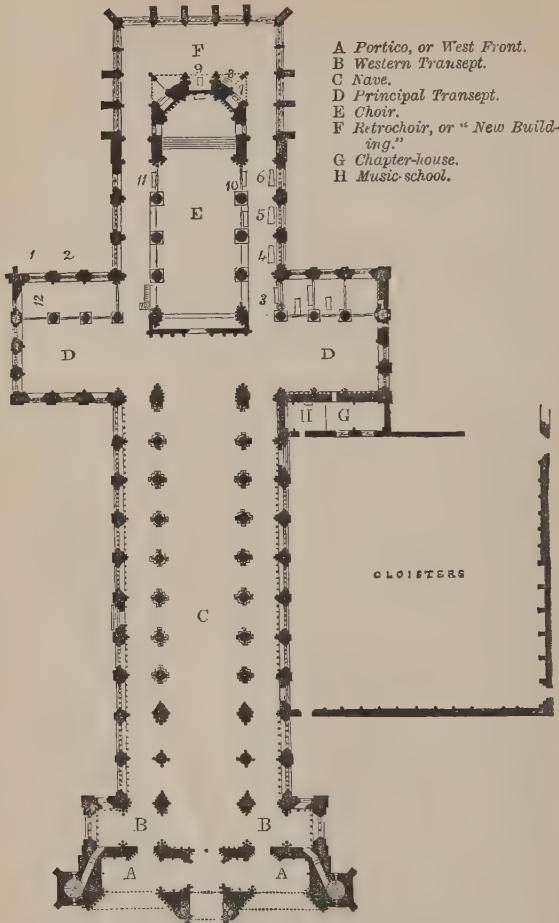
The southern Gyrvii remained more nearly connected with E. Anglia; and both the N. and S. fens had been Christianized (no doubt from E. Anglia) long before Mercia received the faith. Thomas, the second native Englishman consecrated a bishop, was a Gyrvian, and succeeded St. Felix in the see of Dunwich in 647. The fen country, whatever we may now think of it, possessed infinite charms in the eyes of monastic writers. They praise it for its wide extent, its pleasant appearance (visu decora), its streams, lakes, and islands, its plenty of wood, abundant fisheries, and quantity of game and waterfowl. Peterborough was the first of the great Benedictine abbeys established either in the midst of the fens, or on their borders. "In truth the country was well suited to the then stage of English monastic life. It was convenient both for the missionary and the anchoretic life. It was secluded, and yet near to the centres of population; it was politically possessed of a sort of quasi-independence that afforded security to the missionaries sent from Christian Gyrvia into half-converted Mercia." (*Stubbs*, "on the Foundation and early Fasti of Peterborough," 'Archæol. Journal,' vol. xviii.)

The new monastery was founded at a place called *Medeshamstede* (meadow homestead?); and its position, on the edge of the marsh country, and not, like Ely, Thorney, or Ramsey, on an island rising from the fens, explains why a larger and more important "burgh" grew up round Medeshamstede than round the other fen monasteries. Saxulf, the founder, became the first abbot; and probably retained the abbacy after he became bishop of Lichfield in 675. The monastery "hallowed in the names of St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Andrew" (hence the name of "Peterburgh" which at last superseded "Medeshamstede), flourished until 870, when the Danes, under Inguar and Hubba, devastated East Anglia and Mercia; and Ely, Medeshamstede, and Crowland were all plundered and destroyed. For nearly a century Medeshamstede remained desolate; until about 966, Athelwold, bishop of Winchester, as distinguished a "constructor" or architect under King Edgar as his successor William of Wykeham was under Edward III., caused it to be rebuilt, together with many other religious houses which had been destroyed by the Northmen. It was henceforth—probably from being surrounded with a wall of defence—called *Burgh*, "a similitudine urbis," says William of Malmesbury. Before another hundred years had passed, Peterborough had become one of the wealthiest and most important monasteries in England. Its abbot, Leofric, a nephew of his namesake, the great Earl Leofric of Mercia, "was so high in the favour of the Confessor and his Queen" that he held 5 abbeys at once—Burton, Coventry, Crowland and Thorney, besides Peterborough. He ruled the great house of St. Peter for 13 years—procured lands and ornaments of all kinds for it, and "gilded the minster so" (*i.e.*, made it so rich in the precious metals) that men called it the "Golden Burgh." He joined Harold before the battle of Hastings, and although wounded in the fight, managed to escape, and to return to Peterborough, where he died 3 days later. The monks elected a certain Brand, and sent him to the Atheling Edgar for confirmation—an ignoring of the Conqueror for which they had afterwards to pay; and on the death of Brand in 1069, William made a Norman, named Turold, abbot. He was on his way to take possession, "with his Frenchmen," when the monastery was attacked, plundered, and partly burnt, by the famous

Hereward, who came up from Ely with a force composed of outlaws, rebellious tenants of the abbey, and the Danes who had come to England with Sweyne. Turold arrived to find the enemy departed, the monks scattered abroad, and one sick brother alone in the infirmary. It does not appear that the great church, though plundered, was severely injured by the fire, which, says the Chronicle, "burnt all the monks' houses, and all the town, except one house." The treasures were carried off by the Danes, whose ships were driven ashore during a great storm, and the "gold and silver," placed for security in the ch. of a certain town, whose name is not recorded. But through the drunkenness of its guardians, the church and all that was in it was burned in the night, and the relics of the wealth of the Golden Burgh were lost for ever. (For all this story of the attack on Peterborough by Hereward, see *Freeman's* 'Norm. Conq.' iv. ch. 20.) On the death of the Abbot Turold in 1100, the monks, who had paid 300 marks to the king for the privilege, elected an Englishman, Godric, nephew of their former Abbot Brand. But he was soon deposed; the abbey remained in the king's hands for 4 years; and it was long before a true Englishman again held the abbacy, while the house was rapidly growing in wealth and importance. The privileges said to have been granted to the monastery by the Popes Vitalian and Agatho, are contained in charters branded by Mr. Stubbs as "most shameless forgeries." By them, the abbot is constituted Legate of Rome all over England, and consequently was entitled to precedence of all other abbots: the monastery is exempted from all taxes, and is made a place of pilgrimage equal for the obtaining of pardons to Rome itself. How far these pretended privileges were ever insisted on is not very clear; but "Peterborough the Proud," as it was called, maintained its dignity, and at the outer gateway all visitors, of whatever rank, put off their shoes before entering the holy precincts.

One version of the English Chronicle was continued here to a later period than any of the others, ending in 1154, the year of King Stephen's death. It is full of misused and fabricated charters, but is nevertheless of very great importance. A later 'Historia Petroburgensis' was edited by Stapleton for the Camden Soc. This history has borrowed much from the 'Crowland History' of the Pseudo-Ingulf, on which scholars had looked with much suspicion before its fictitious character was thoroughly exposed by Mr. H. J. Riley (Archæol. Instit. vol. xix.).

Of the abbots of Peterborough after the Conquest, those of especial note were, Ernulf, who had been Prior of Ch. Ch. Canterbury, and who became Bp. of Rochester; John of Seez, who began the choir of the existing cathedral; Martin of Bec, who continued the work, and governed the house with great prudence during the troubled times of Stephen; William de Waterville, and Benedict, who completed the nave (the latter was Cœur-de-Lion's keeper of the Great Seal); Robert de Sutton; Richard Ashton and Robert Kirton, who built the eastern transept, or "New Building;" and John Chambers, the last abbot and first bishop of the new see, erected by Henry VIII. From its position, the monastery, like that of St. Alban's, was often made a resting-place by the kings of England on their way to or from the north. Ed. III., his queen, and court, kept the Easter festival here in 1327; on which occasion the abbot, Adam de Botheby, expended nearly 500*l.* Cardinal Wolsey kept the same feast here in great state in 1528; but although the abbey expended enor-



1, 2. *Closed Doors formerly opening into the Lady-chapel.*
3. *Monument of Abbot Andrew.*
4, 5, 6. *Effigies of Abbots.*
7. *Monument, said to be that of Abbot Hedda and his Monks.*
8. *Monument of Thomas Deacon.*
9. *Effigy of an Abbot.*
10. *Stone marking the original tomb of Mary Queen of Scots.*
11. *Tomb of Queen Catherine.*
12. *Early English Capitals of wood, removed from the Choir.*

GROUND-PLAN, PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL.

Scale, 100 ft. to 1 in.

mous sums in entertaining its royal and noble visitors, the local rhyme characterizing the great monasteries of the fens indicates that it was scarcely so liberal to those of lower degree—

"Ramsay the bounteous of gold and of fee,
Crowland as courteous as courteous may be,
Spalding the rich, and Peterborough the proud—
Sawtrey, by the way, that poor Abbaye,
Gave more alms in one day
Than all they."

John Chambers, the last abbot, who, in the words of Gunton the historian of Peterborough, "loved to sleep in a whole skin, and desired to die in his nest," resigned the abbey to the king on the 1st of March, 1540. He was then granted an annual pension of 260*l.*; but in the following year letters patent were issued for converting the monastic church into the cathedral of a new diocese, which was to extend over the counties of Northampton and Rutland, hitherto comprised in the great diocese of Lincoln. The church is said to have been spared as a monument to Catherine of Arragon. Henry VIII., it is asserted, replied to a suggestion, "How well it would become his greatness to erect a fair monument for her"—"Yes, I will leave her one of the goodliest in the kingdom"—meaning the church of Peterborough. The annual value of the monastery, at the Dissolution was 2100*l.* Of this the king retained one-third in his own hands; assigning 700*l.* to the bishop, and 700*l.* for the maintenance of the new dean and chapter.

The *town*, or burgh, grew up, as has been said, under the protection of the monastery, and was situated entirely east of the minster, until in 1140, Adam Martin of Bec built a bridge over the Nen, and the better houses were gradually moved westward. The whole formed but one parish until of late years this was divided into four, and new churches were built. The borough, city, and manor are identical. The city has returned 2 members to parliament since the 1st year of Ed. VI.

The chief, if not the sole, objects of interest in Peterborough are the *Cathedral*, formerly the church of the great monastery; and the remains of the monastic buildings which surround it. These will be described in due order. The great feature of the cathedral is the *western front* or *portico*, with its three great open arches. This is perhaps unique; and has at all events no counterpart in England, although the arches in the W. front of Lincoln may have given the original idea. It has been copied on a smaller scale in some parish churches, as at Snettesham in Norfolk, which again served as a model for the Cathedral of Fredericton in New Brunswick. *Every part of the Cathedral is at all times (except during the hours of service) open to the visitor, without any attendant.* Peterborough is indeed the only Cathedral in England in which this arrangement has been attempted, or has been found practicable.

Before entering the close, the visitor should place himself in front of the market-house, and remark from that point the view of the W. front, and the W. gateway of the abbey precincts, rising just as they did six hundred years ago above the old "burgh." This *western gateway* was originally the work of Abbot Benedict (1177–1193) under whom the nave of the cathedral was erected. The Norman vault of the gateway is groined with plain cross-ribs, agreeing exactly with the vaulting of the aisles; and a Norman arcade remains on either side, one of the arches of which, N. and S., is larger than the rest, and is pierced for a door. The W. front has been faced with Perp. work, and a Perp. story above the gate has taken the place of a chapel of St. Nicholas, which

formed part of Benedict's design. The window above the arch on the E. side was part of a Perp. shrine, the rest of which remains in the cathedral. It is much to be regretted that the two portions should have been separated. As he passes beneath the arch, a most striking view of the W. front of the cathedral breaks upon the visitor. On the *left* is the chancel of Becket's chapel, founded by Abbot Benedict, and now forming a part of the Grammar School. On the *right* is the ancient gateway of the abbot's lodgings, now that of the Episcopal palace (see *post*); and in *front*, across an open space of greensward, rise the three great arches of the W. front, or, strictly speaking, the gigantic W. porch; for the two piers are entirely detached, and stand several feet in advance of the actual wall of the W. front.

Here it will be desirable to give the dates and architectural character of the principal portions of the cathedral. They are as follows:—

Choir and eastern aisles of transept (1118–1133, Abbots John of Seez and Martin of Bec): Early Norman.

Transept, and probably a small portion of the *nave* (1155–1177, Abbot William de Waterville): middle Norman.

Nave (1177–1193, Abbot Benedict): late Norman.

Western transept (also in all probability, part of Abbot Benedict's work): Transition-Norman.

West front, and *remains of the Lady Chapel*: Early English.

Eastern aisle or New Building begun 1438, completed 1496–1528 (Abbots Ashton and Kirton): Perpendicular.

From the apse of the choir to the west front, therefore, the cathedral affords an excellent example of the gradual changes in style from Early Norman to fully developed Early English; whilst the Perp. work of the "New Building" is of scarcely less value. Peterborough takes a very high, if not the highest place among English cathedrals of the second class; and, as has already been said, it has one unique feature —the grand triple arch of its W. front. The entire church is built of Barnackstone, after the usual fashion of this part of Northamptonshire. (For Barnack and its quarries, see Rte. 3.)

The *Western Porch*, which is of the purest E. E. architecture, dates, in all probability, between the years 1200 and 1222, during which period Acharius and Robert of Lindsey were abbots. It is remarkable that neither of the local chroniclers has recorded the building of it, or that of the western transept behind it. The work, however, "seems about coeval with the chapter-house at Lincoln, and the west porch at Ely, both of which were built shortly after 1200, and have very florid and elaborate details. . . . The fineness of the masonry, and the close-jointing of the deeply-moulded arch stones are unsurpassed by anything of this period in the kingdom," *F. A. Paley*. The front consists of 3 enormous arches, 81 ft. in height, that in the centre being narrower than the other two. These arches are supported by triangular piers, entirely and boldly detached from the W. wall. They are faced with banded shafts; and beyond these, N. and S. sides, a square turret, capped with a spire and pinnacles. The arches themselves support gables, much enriched with arcades and niches, and having in each a "wheel" window of very beautiful design. A turret, terminating in a small spire, rises between each gable. The only additions to the original front are the spires and pinnacles which terminate the flanking turrets. These on the S.W. turret are Dec.; and those of the N. turret are later (Perp.), and remain incomplete. The height from the

ground to the top of the S.W. spire is 156 ft.; the width of the W. front is exactly the same. The incomplete N.W. spire is not so high. All the details deserve the most careful examination. Capitals, leaf-ornaments of shafts, the enrichments of the windows in the gables, are alike graceful, and admirably finished. In a niche at the top of the central gable is a figure of St. Peter. In the 2 side niches are St. Paul and St. Andrew; the three saints in whose names the ch. was dedicated in 1237. The 6 small figures at the sides of the gable windows are said to be those of Kings of England from the Conquest to the time of erection of the front. In an arcade below are 9 figures of Apostles; and in the spandrels of the great arches are saints and ecclesiastics no longer to be identified.

Between the central piers of the front, rising to about half their height, and projecting beyond them, is a parvise, or porch, with an upper chamber, added about 1370. It is much enriched, and is in itself a fine composition; but it injures the uniform effect of the front; and was probably erected as an abutment against this original front, which, by a bulging outwards of the pillars, or a settlement of the foundations, was falling forward toward the west, having, in fact, been overweighted by the addition (Dec.) of stone spires and pinnacles to the flanking towers. The bosses on the vault of the porch should be noticed. The room above serves as the Chapter Library. The W. wall of the church, within the great arches, is enriched with various arcades. The three portals are unusually fine; and the wooden doors themselves are the original ones, as is shown by the chevron moulding on their interior framework. "As a portico," says *Fergusson*, "using the term in its classical sense, the W. front of Peterborough is the grandest and finest in Europe; though wanting in the accompaniments which would enable it to rival some of the great façades of Continental cathedrals." The effects of light and shade produced by this "majestick front of columel-work," as Fuller calls it, are wonderful.

On entering the cathedral, we find ourselves in the *W. transept;* extending across the nave, and projecting one bay beyond the aisle on either side. This transept was an addition to the Norm. nave during the period of the great transition of styles, and, like the nave itself, was probably the work of Abbot Benedict (1177–1193). The naves of the neighbouring cathedrals of Ely and Lincoln terminate in a similar manner; but the W. transept of Ely is probably earlier (1174–1189), and that of Lincoln later (1209–1220). The vaulting and arch mouldings are of Trans.-Norm. character, and much enriched. Lofty arches, parallel with the nave aisles, support towers, of which, except one stage of the N. tower, no portion above the roofs was completed at the same time as the transepts. In the bays beyond the towers are 2 long windows N. and S., and 2 narrower, E., the tracery of which is E. E. They have transomes, with cusped headings to the lower lights—an unusual and early example. The Norm. clerestory windows above are filled with Perp. tracery. Whether the existing W. wall belonged originally to this transept, or to the E. E. West front, is an architectural problem which must be allowed to remain unsolved. An E. E. arcade, pierced for 3 doorways, runs along it; and above each doorway is a window, with Perp. tracery. A wall passage runs through their jambs.

The bells, which hang in the N.W. tower, are rung from the floor of this transept. The E. E. font, which has been restored, is placed under the great S. window. The view up the nave aisles, with their

long perspective of vaulting ribs, is very striking.

The *nave* is throughout Norm., the work of Abbots *De Waterville* and *Benedict* (1155–1193); and a continuation of the choir, which was completed in 1133. Peterborough is one of 3 Norm. cathedrals, the other 2 being Ely and Norwich, which are separated by no great distances, and may be advantageously compared. The earliest is Norwich (1091–1119), the original design of which has been least interfered with, and which still affords the most perfect example of an early Norm. Ch. remaining in England. The nave of Ely, completed in 1174, is nearly contemporary with that of Peterborough, which it greatly resembles. Peterborough, however, retains its Norm. choir and apse; and its ground-plan is only second in interest to that of Norwich. The dimensions of the actual nave exceed those of either Ely or Norwich:—

	Peterborough. Ft.	Ely. Ft.	Norwich. Ft.
Length of nave	211*	203†	200‡
Width of nave ◊	33	30	28
Height . . .	81	72·9	69·6

* From W. transept to W. piers of central tower.
† From W. transept to octagon.
‡ To choir screen. ◊ Without aisles.

The choir of Norwich, however, is extended into the nave proper, which measures 250 ft. to the central tower; and at Ely, the grandeur of the later additions, the great W. tower and the octagon, produces an effect before which Peterborough loses indefinitely.

The nave, which consists of 10 bays, has massive cylindrical piers, with smaller shafts set against them, and well-moulded circ. arches. The *triforium*, which closely resembles that of Ely, has a wide semicirc. arch, with zigzag moulding, embracing 2 smaller ones, divided by a single shaft. The *clerestory* above has 3 semicirc. arches of which that in the centre, higher than the rest, springs from slender shafts, set on the caps. of those below), circumscribed by a pointed hood-moulding. Waterville's (the earlier) portion of the nave seems to have extended as far as the fourth pier from the east. The mouldings of bases W. of this point have a distinctly E. E. character (showing their later date; Benedict assimilated his work to that of his predecessor, and gave it a general Norm. air); and the tympana of the triforium eastward are hatched like those in the transepts, whilst the others are plain. There are other minute but distinct points of difference which need not be detailed here. The S. side of the nave was evidently built before the N. side, probably to complete the cloister.

A single shaft rises from the floor to the roof between each bay of the nave. These shafts formerly supported the rafters of the painted ceiling. When the arches of the central tower (see *post*) were changed from round to pointed, this remarkable ceiling, which is clearly of the 12th cent., was raised from a flat form to its present shape, which is half octagonal. It is painted in lozenge-shaped divisions, of which the central and alternate lines on each side contain figures, most of which are seated, and represent royal and ecclesiastical personages, intermixed with very curious grotesques. These are in colours. The bordering and smaller lozenges are painted in black and white, with narrow red lines. The painting on the upper part of the walls, between the present position of the ceiling and the Norm. cornice on which it originally rested, is work of the 14th cent., when the arches were altered, and the Norm. ceiling was raised to fit them. In this painting on the walls there are shields of arms of the 14th cent., and its general character is quite distinct from that of

the ceiling itself. The original design was evidently intended for a flat, painted ceiling; and although the only other example of such a ceiling known in this country is that at St. Alban's, there is abundant evidence that it was the usual covering of an early Norm. nave; and indeed of any wide central space, whether nave, chancel, or transept. On the Continent there are many examples of flat ceilings of the 12th cent.

The vaulting of the *nave aisles* is Norm., with bold and massive cross-ribs. An arcade of intersecting arches runs below the windows, which are E. E. insertions. They are unusual in form, flat-arched, of 3 lights, and have plate tracery. The aisle walls were apparently raised when these windows were inserted. The triforium is now lighted by large Dec. windows (circa 1360), of 3 lights. It had originally a steep roof, sloping outward.

In the 3rd bay (from the W.) of the S. aisle is the *Abbot's door*, an E. E. portal opening into what was the ancient cloister, and corresponding with another portal, in the S. cloister walk, which led to the abbot's lodgings.

On the N. side of the great W. door hangs a portrait of *Old Scarlett*, the sexton who interred Catherine of Arragon and Q. Mary of Scotland, and who died in 1594, aged 98. The arms above are those of the see of Peterborough. There is a poetical inscription, which partly runs :—

—— "You see old Scarlett's picture stand on hie,
But at your feete here doth his body lye.
Second to none for strength and sturdye limm,
A scarebabe mighty voice, with visage grim.
He had interd two queenes within this place
And this townes householders in his lives space
Twice over; but at length his own time came."

The portrait is curious as an example of costume; but is quite out of place here, and moreover is not the original. In the cathedral account books is an entry in 1665, "to the painter for Old Scarlett's picture drawing, £1 10s.;" and again, in 1747, "Paid Mr. Clifton for copying Old Scarlett's picture, £2 12s. 6d."

The *central tower*, at the intersection of the nave and eastern transept, was originally built by Abbot de Waterville (1155–1177), and formed a lantern of 4 stages. (The type may remain in the Norm. tower of Castor; see the present Rte., *ante*.), It subsequently proved, however, too heavy for the central piers to support; and in order to prevent the fall of the tower (which had actually taken place at Ely and Winchester), it was taken down nearly as far as the crowns of the great arches. The E. and W. arches were altered from semicircular to pointed; the Norm. arches, N. and S., which have chevron mouldings, remain. The pointed hoods inserted above the 2 round arches mark real arches of construction, devised to remove the weight from the crowns of the latter. The original Norm. pillars and caps. remain, but have been adapted to the new work in a manner which should be noticed. The existing *lantern* is Dec. (circ. 1340), with 2 lofty windows on each side, filled with Dec. tracery. Graceful vaulting shafts of wood, in groups of 3, carry the lierne roof, in the central boss of which is the Saviour holding a globe. The wooden vaulting, as well as the lightness of the entire lantern, were no doubt rendered necessary from the mischief which the weight of the Norm. tower had already caused to the S.E. pier, which is much crippled, and bound with iron. The great pillars on the E. side have in fact settled very considerably on their foundations, dragging down their adjoining triforium and clerestory arches in a remarkable manner.

The view from beneath the central

tower, looking westward, should be noticed. The unusual effect of the W. transept, and of the enriched western wall, with its windows, is well seen from this point. At the N.E. angle, close outside the choir screen, is placed a *pulpit*, erected in 1873, by the sons of Dr. James, author of a well-known treatise on the 'Collects,' who died in 1868, having been for 40 years a Canon of Peterborough. The design is by *E. M. Barry, R.A.*; the materials, red stone from Dumfries, red Mansfield stone, and marbles from Ireland and from Devonshire. The lower part of the design consists of a large central shaft, with 4 detached columns at the angles, all of marble. The upper part is square, with the corners cut off; and at the 4 corners are attached marble columns, flanking figures of the 4 Evangelists, in red Mansfield stone. The whole is massive, and well in keeping with the heaviness of the Norm. nave.

The eastern arches of both *transepts* belong, like the choir, to the earliest part of the church, built by Abbots John of Seez, and Martin of Bec (1118–1133). The rest of the transepts is the work of Abbot de Waterville (1155–1177). The arrangement of both transepts is the same. Each consists of three bays. The termination of each, N. and S., is alike; each having three tiers of semicircular-headed, windows (the two upper in the lines of the triforium and clerestory), with a wall arcade below the lowest tier. The W. wall of both transepts has the same arrangement of windows, except that the clerestory tier resembles that of the nave, in having a high central light, with a lower arch (forming an arcade passage), on either side. The windows throughout the transepts (except those in the eastern aisles) are filled with Perp. tracery. Modern *stained glass* has been inserted in many windows of the N. transept, and in three of those of the S. It is by different artists, and is consequently by no means so satisfactory, as even inferior glass would be, if designed by the same colourist.

The *eastern aisles* are divided from the transept by massive piers, alternately round and octangular, supporting arches which are slightly stilted. They have plain cushioned caps. A billet-moulding surrounds each arch, which has a plain rib in the soffete. The triforium above resembles that in the nave, except in having many of the tympana hatched. The clerestory is the same as on the W. side: vaulting shafts rise to the roof between the arches; a chevroned stringcourse runs at the foot of the triforium; a plain moulding above it. The heaviness of the masses, and the style of ornamentation (the billet, chevron, and indented or hatched moulding are alone used), sufficiently indicate the early date of these aisles, which precisely resemble the choir in all their details. "It seems to be one continuous piece of work throughout." The difference between this portion and the rest of the transept, will be at once recognized, by comparing the mouldings of the entrance arches of the choir-aisles with those into the nave-aisles opposite.

The *ceilings* of both transepts are of the same date as that of the nave, which they resemble except in being plainer. They are painted white and black in medallions. Unlike the nave ceiling, however, these of the transepts remain in their original position, and have never been raised. They may therefore lay claim to a yet higher antiquity.

The eastern aisle of the *North transept* is divided from the transept itself by oaken screen work of Perp. date, but of no very high interest. Some stalls and canopies removed from the choir are placed against the N. wall, among which are three E. Eng. shafts with gilt

capitals, should especially be noticed. (At the east end of the chancel in Compton Ch., Surrey, are some small wooden arches of the same date.) The E. wall below the windows is hung with tapestry of the 16th cent., relics, in all probability, of hangings which formerly adorned the choir, representing the delivery of St. Peter from prison, and the healing of the lame man at the gate of the Temple. The windows of this aisle are filled with Perp. tracery, — except the nearest to the choir, which is geometrical. A Norm. portal in the N. wall opens to a staircase leading to the roof. The two closed arches in the northern and central bays on the E. side, formed the entrance to a very beautiful Lady Chapel of the E. Eng. period (1274), which, after the Restoration was demolished, for the sake of the materials, in order to repair the great damage which the Cathedral had received from Cromwell's troopers. The position of this Lady Chapel resembled that of the Lady Chapel at Ely.

The east side of the *South transept* is lighted by three E. Eng. windows, the tracery in the heads of which is of the earliest kind, consisting of foliated circles only. This aisle was divided into three chapels, ded. to S. Oswald, S. Benedict, and S. Kyneburge, by stone partitions of the same date as the aisle itself, one of which has an intersecting Norm. arcade. Brackets on each side of the altars remain in the E. wall. Similar divisions for chapels of E. Eng. date exist in the transepts of Lincoln Cathedral.

A Dec. doorway in the W. wall of this transept opens to a small building of Trans.-Norm. character, now used partly as a music school, and partly as the Chapter-house. It was anciently known as the "Chapel of the Ostrie," a corruption probably of "hostelry" or guest-house.

The Cathedral suffers throughout from the want of stained glass. It was richly furnished in this respect, and retained the greater part of its ancient fittings until long after the Reformation; but in 1643 Peterborough was visited by Cromwell, on his way to besiege Crowland; and it is probable that no English Cathedral was more completely "set to rights," or underwent more wanton destruction at the hands of the Parliamentarian troopers. In spite of special orders "to do no injury to the church," they broke open its doors, and proceeded to shatter the windows, to pull down the fittings of the choir, to destroy the organ and the monuments, including those of the two Queens, Catherine and Mary; and to break in pieces the superb reredos of carved stone, painted, gilt, and inlaid with plates of silver. The narrative in the Mercurius Rusticus asserts that "one of the soldiers having charged his musket to shatter down the 4 Evangelists, in the roof, above the Communion Table, by the rebound of his own shot was struck blind." The cloisters were then pulled completely down (the windows had been filled with stained glass of unusual beauty); and all the charters and evidences belonging to the Cathedral were burnt or destroyed. The soldiers appropriated such rich church vestments as they could find; and until their departure they were daily exercised by their officers in the nave of the Cathedral.

This unusual havoc will account for the present condition of the *Choir;* all the ancient furniture of which has disappeared. The heavy *Organ Screen,* of white stone, was executed under the direction of Dean Monk, before 1830; and the stalls and woodwork are also of that date.

The choir, as far as the apse, is of 4 bays; the massive piers being entirely hidden by the tabernacle work of the stalls. The arrangement and details of triforium and clerestory precisely resemble those of the east-

Chapel at Cambridge, that, it has been suggested, "the same master-mind would seem to have conceived both." (The two buildings were advancing at the same time; and, as at Peterborough, the work at King's College was stopped for some time after its commencement. It was not finished until 1532.) The beautiful fan-tracery of the roof should especially be noticed. The arms on the bosses are those of England, Edward the Confessor, and Peterborough. The ancient stained glass, which once filled all the windows has disappeared. The central window now contains glass by *Heaton and Butler* (the subjects are the Last Supper, and the Baptism of Our Lord), placed in 1875 as a memorial of Bp. Davys, "Illustriss. Reginæ Victoriæ Præceptoris," d. 1864. At the S. end is a memorial window for Dean Butler, d. 1853.

The manner in which the Norman choir apse is squared, so as to adapt it to the New Building should be remarked. The Norm. shaft and Norm. wall of the apse remain; and at the side of the entrance arches these shafts are fitted with Perp. caps. Portions of the Norm. string-course, much weather-worn (for it must be remembered that before the erection of the New Building the apse was unenclosed) may also be observed—as well as the Dec. tracery still remaining in the closed windows, N. and S. "The body of the aperture in the three easternmost is left open, and continued down to the ground in the form of lofty archways, though the lower parts are now blocked by the modern altar screen, as they were formerly by steps leading from the back of the high altar. The marks of these steps may yet be seen in the S.E. archway, within the chapel, as well as the hinges of folding doors, by which the retro-choir, or space behind the high altar, was enclosed."—*Paley.*

Under one of these arches at the back of the apse is a small monument of considerable interest. This was long supposed to be the stone erected by Godric, Abbot of Crowland, over the monks of Medeshamstede (the ancient name of Peterborough), who, with their Abbot Hedda, were slaughtered by the Danes in 870. But the story of Godric's care in this matter, and the description of the monument which he raised, rest solely on the spurious narrative of Ingulf; and it has been shown by Mr. M. H. Bloxam, that this memorial, whatever it may be, is a work of the early part of the 11th centy. It is a mass, either of Purbeck or of a somewhat similar marble, full of minute shells. Large holes have been bored in it, 3 on one side and 2 on the other, probably for the purpose of fixing candlesticks. On either of the upright sides are 6 much worn figures, the details of which it is very difficult to distinguish. All have the nimbus—a plain circular beading, except in the case of one of the figures on the E. side, which has the cruciform nimbus distinctive of our Lord. The hair of a figure on the W. side is arranged in rays or semicircles. The dress of all is alike—a long robe, with a shorter sleeved vestment over it. The emblems they carry seem to vary; most have books; some bear palm-branches. All are under a circular arcade, with a kind of double leaf-ornament springing from the intersections. The sloping top of the stone is divided into 4 partitions, with rude sculpture of leafage and birds, one of which may perhaps represent a peacock, a favourite emblem of the Resurrection. Circles and knots of intersected lines mark the early character of the whole work. The two ends are plain, except that on the S. side the date 870 has been carved in modern Arabic numerals. Whatever this monument may really be, it deserves the most careful attention. The

figures in all probability represent the Saviour and His Apostles.

On the adjoining wall is the monument of Thomas Deacon (d. 1721), founder of a charity school at Peterborough, and in many other ways a benefactor to the city. The shattered monument W. of this one, was erected during his own lifetime by Sir Humphry Orm, for himself and his family. Before Sir Humphry's death his monument was reduced by Cromwell's troopers to its present condition. The effigy of an Abbot, of E. Eng. date, is placed in the recess behind the altar; and on the adjoining wall are the monuments of Bp. Cumberland (d. 1718), author of a volume 'De Legibus Naturæ disquisitio Philosophica,' in refutation of Hobbes, to which reference is made in the inscription; and of Bp. White Kennett (d. 1728), whose 'Parochial Antiquities' and 'Hist. of England' are still remembered. Against the lower wall of the apse is a monument formed of fragments of various dates, which seem to have been arranged at a very late period, as a memorial of some unknown person. The Perp. portions belong to a shrine which contained relics of St. Ebba, the most important part of which now serves as a window in the gatehouse. St. Ebba was the instructress of St. Etheldreda of Ely, and the sister of Oswald of Northumbria, whose arm was one of the greatest treasures of Peterborough.

The *North Choir Aisle* precisely resembles the south; the first bay being E. Eng. as in that. At its eastern end a very plain marble tablet commemorates Bp. Jeune (1864–1868). One of the original Norm. window openings has been preserved in this aisle, filled, however, with Perp. tracery, and with modern stained glass. It overlooks a slab of blue stone, close to the N. choir door, beneath which still rest the remains of Queen Catherine of Arragon. Here then we contemplate "the humble grave of one to whose existence, though it may be but incidentally, this nation owes the greatest change that ever was brought about in it, and upon the accident of whose burial here depended the preservation of this fine Abbey Church, and its conversion into a Cathedral. There is no monument in England that can fairly be called more deeply interesting than this one, though few indeed of those who daily trample on it, and are fast obliterating the simple words, "Queen Catherine, A.D. 1536," appear to entertain a thought about it. Not one in five hundred, we dare aver, recalls her dying words in Shakspeare's King Henry VIII.

"When I am dead
Let me be used with honour; strew me o'er
With maiden flowers, that all the world may know
I was a chaste wife to my grave; embalm me,
Then lay me forth; although unqueened, yet still
A queen, and daughter to a king, inter me."

Many banners, with heraldic devices and royal achievements, hung above this tomb; and a lofty herse, covered with a black velvet pall, marked with a cross of silver tissue, and enriched on the sides with the arms and badges of Arragon, remained on it until the destruction wrought by Cromwell's soldiers. Queen Catherine, the closing scene of whose life it is scarcely possible to imagine otherwise than as Shakspeare has painted it, died at Kimbolton Castle in Huntingdonshire, Jan. 8th, 1535, and was interred in this aisle with much of the state befitting "a queen and daughter to a king."

"We have now gradually built up what may well be called a noble minster; and a glance at the plan thus completed will show a Latin cross, the feet resting on two steps,

and the head terminating originally in an apse, to which however a transept yet farther east has been added. Here then we have a cross of that form which is commonly found in old representations of the Rood, where the figure of the crucified is attended by the blessed Virgin and the beloved disciple, kneeling one on either side, on a step at the foot of the cross; while the inscription over the head appears on a scroll crossing the upper part of the tree . . . We have then, in the ground-plan of Peterborough, the highest and most completely developed symbolism of the doctrine of the cross, of which a Christian church is capable."—*G. Ayliffe Poole.*

Passing out of the Cathedral, we enter the ch.-yd. on the N. side, the gateway into which has, close adjoining it, a battlemented arch of entrance to the Deanery (formerly the old Prior's house), built by Abbot Kirton, who completed the new building. The same arms and emblems appear on it as on the bosses and emblems of his work in the Cathedral. His rebus, a kirk on a tun, is placed over the smaller door. The quiet beauty of the ch.-yd., well kept and judiciously planted, will at once attract the visitor. An excellent view of the exterior of the Cathedral is obtained from it; the best general point being toward the N.E. angle, where the rich Perp. chapel, the Norm. apse towering above it, and the many lines of towers and spires group most picturesquely, and are well contrasted by the surrounding foliage. The group formed by the N.W. transept, with its tower and gable, and the N. spire of the W. front, should be noticed soon after entering the ch.-yd. The transept gables are E. Eng. of the same date and character as the W. front, and of great beauty. The first stage of the N. transept-tower above the roof is Trans.-Norm. of the same date as the transept: the upper stage and pinnacles are E. Eng., but of considerably later date than the W. front.

The windows of the nave aisles (late E. Eng.), triforium (Dec.), and clerestory (Perp.) may here be well observed. Flat, pilaster-like buttresses run up between each bay (Norm.) as high as the string-course above the aisle windows and Dec. above. The upper part may have been added when the aisle walls were raised. The Norm. arcade above the aisle windows marks the height of the old wall, from which the roof sloped steeply backward. The parapet above the clerestory is a late Dec. addition. The N. front of the main transept deserves notice, since it contains the original Norm. window openings filled with Perp. tracery. On the eastern side, the door once leading into the destroyed Lady Chapel remains; and some arches which lined what formed its S. wall may be traced under the single Norm. window remaining in the N. choir aisle.

The exterior of the eastern apse is much enriched, and very striking. Buttressed turrets, capped with spires, rise at its junction with the choir An intersecting arcade passes round below the upper tier of windows; and in the parapet above, which is an addition of the early Dec. period, are circular medallions, enclosing trefoils, from which half emerge figures of kings and ecclesiastics. The manner in which the Norm. windows were enlarged and altered is well seen here.

The New Building has very massive plain buttresses between each bay, on each of which is placed the sitting figure of an Apostle. A rich and graceful parapet fills the space between. This has suffered much from time and decay; but the initials (R. A., Richard Ashton, and R. K., Robert Kirton) and devices (an

ash-tree on a tun. and a kirk on a tun) of the builders may still be traced on it and on the buttresses. On the parapet are also the alternate monograms I. H. C. and M. (Jesus and Mary); and the string-course over the E. window has the name Karton (Kirton). On that of a window on the S. side it is spelt backwards (Notrak).

The central tower, as has already been said, dates about 1340. It has 2 windows on each side, with a blind arcade of rich tracery between and beyond them. At the angles are octagonal turrets. The tower was originally surmounted by a wooden octagon "which perhaps bore, or was intended to bear, a timber spire, covered with lead." The octagon was removed by Dr. Kipling (who became Dean of Peterborough in 1798. The turrets, which rise above the tower, were added at this time, and were evidently imitated from those (Norm. with a Perp. battlement) at the ends of the great transept.

Of the *monastic buildings* there are numerous relics, in spite of great and wanton destruction. The great cloister extended as usual on the S. side of the nave, and was destroyed by Cromwell's troopers in 1643. The inner walls of the S.E. and W. walks remain, and show that the original Norm. cloister was perhaps extended and certainly altered in the 14th and 15th cents. At the extreme W. end of the S. walk is a very rich Trans.-Norm. (almost E. Eng.) portal, having an inner round-headed arch with raised foliage. The outer arch, finely and elaborately moulded, is pointed; and in the tympanum between the two arches is a quatrefoil, with dragons among foliage in the spandrels. The side shafts are detached, with dog-tooth between them. This portal opened to the abbot's house (now the bishop's palace), and is placed immediately opposite the "abbot's door," in the nave of the Cathedral. In the wall E. of this portal is a series of 5 recesses, the backs of 3 of which are enriched. These were lavatories. Eastward again the walk has a rich E. Eng. wall arcade; portions of which are crossed by the arches of a later vaulting (late Dec.). At the E. end is a portal resembling the abbot's, but less rich, which opened to a long vaulted passage. In the E. walk, portions of the vaulting arches remain against the transept; and on the N. wall are some rich E. Eng. brackets once carrying vaulting. These may have been either in a slype or passage, or in the Chapter-house. The W. walk also shows the remains of vaulting arches, and traces of 4 portals, now closed, one of which (near the N. end) probably opened to the refectory. A Norm. arch (open), with billet moulding, here gives admission to the cloister, and is carried between the W. walk and the church.

A long arched passage (late Dec.) led from the E. end of the S. walk to the outer wall of the close. Opening from this passage, eastward, are the remains of the infirmary, built by Abbot John de Caux (de Caleto, 1248–1261). It is of 7 bays, 3 arches standing open, while the rest are walled up in a house. Clustered piers and mouldings are good and graceful. Grotesques, foliage, and small heads are well sculptured. On the S. side are some remains of the chapel of the infirmary, dedicated to St. Lawrence. From the end of the long passage the situation of the monastery, on ground rising gently from the bank of the Nen, is well seen. The upper part of the city (where is the G. N. station) is still higher.

Portions of the *refectory* remain in the walls of one of the bishop's gardens. The *Archdeacon's house* is partly composed from a hall (a guest hall?) of the 13th cent. The interior is divided by modern partitions, the

wall separating the hall from the kitchen or buttery remains, and is pierced by 2 round-headed arches.

Returning to the Close, before the W. front, the *Abbot's Gateway*, on the S. side, leading to what was once the abbot's house and is now the episcopal palace, should be especially noticed. The abbot obtained a licence to crenellate a gatehouse and 2 chambers between it and the church in 2nd Ed. II., A.D. 1319; and his work may fairly be identified with this building. It is of early Dec. character, with a groined roof springing from clustered shafts. An arcade lines its interior walls. At the angles are square turrets, in each of which is a niche containing a figure; a third figure is placed in the gable. The arrangement on either side of this gateway is the same. The statues on the N. side are those of Ed. II., Abbot Godfrey of Crowland, and the Prior of Peterborough, wearing the Benedictine habit. On the S. side are St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Andrew, the 3 saints to whom the church was at first dedicated. Above the gateway is a room called the Knights' Chamber, in which guests of distinguished rank were lodged. The windows of this room are later than the gateway itself.

N. of the main gateway which leads into the Close, is the chancel of a chapel of St. Thomas of Canterbury, originally founded by Abbots de Waterville and Benedict,—the latter of whom had been a monk of Canterbury at the time of Becket's murder, of which he wrote a narrative. (He brought to Peterborough, after he became abbot, the flagstones on which Becket had fallen, with which he constructed an altar; besides other Becket relics.) The chancel, which now serves as the Grammar School, is very late Dec. or rather early Perp. The beautiful tracery of the E. window deserves notice, as does the pierced cross on the gable above it.

On the N. side of the Cathedral is a singular earthen mound, known as the "Toot hill" (*totten*, A.-S. = to project), said to have been the site of a tower built by Turold, the first Norm. abbot, for the defence of his monastery. It is possible that it was the mound of a tower; but it has also been conjectured that it was formed by the earth thrown up in digging a moat round the precincts.

There was anciently but one parish of Peterborough, and it is only of late years that this has been divided into 4. The old parish ch. (ded. to St. John the Baptist) stood at first E. of the Cathedral; but was rebuilt on its present site between 1401–1407. (The abbey gave toward the work the nave of St. Thomas's chapel—the chancel, now the Grammar School, remaining (see *ante*). The ch. is therefore Perp., of fine proportions, with very wide chancel arch; but it is much injured by pews and a flat ceiling, and is of no very high interest. There is some curious embroidery (portions of vestments or altar frontals worked into a cushion) in the vestry. The S. porch, with a groined roof of stone, and chamber above, and the W. tower, are the best portions of the ch. The churches of the remaining 3 parishes are *Longthorpe*, an E. Eng. chapel dating throughout 1262–73, very simple but effective. It was the ancient chapel of St. Botolph. (In this parish, which is really a suburb on the W. of Peterborough, is a fortified house of the same date as the chapel. It was square, with corner towers, one of which remains. The lower story is vaulted. The windows have shouldered heads. The pyramidal roof is modern.) *St. Mark's* (*Ellis*, architect), built 1856; and *St. Mary's* (*Christian*, architect), built 1856. These are of no great importance. Opposite St. Mark's is a large monastic barn of the 13th centy.,

worth notice. The Ch. of St. Paul was built in 1869 in the railway hamlet of "New England."

St. Peter's Training College for schoolmasters, intended for the supply of the dioceses of Peterborough, Ely, and Lincoln, is a large brick building, completed 1864, from the designs of *Sir G. G. Scott.*

The *Carr Dyke*, on the inland side of the Fens, running from the Nen to the Witham, began at Peterborough, and was probably a Roman work. It may be well seen at Newark, 1½ m. N.E. of the city, and was about 60 ft. wide with a broad flat bank on each side. "A more judicious and well laid out work," said the engineer Rennie, "I have never seen." It was calculated to receive all the highland and flowing waters, preventing them from flooding the lower grounds, and was thus of the nature of an intercepting, or "catch water" drain.

Excursions from Peterborough.—A day's excursion may easily be made to *Huntingdon*, or *St. Neot's*, by G. N. Rly. (see *Hunts.*, Rtes. 1 and 2). *Stamford* and *Burleigh House* (see Rte. 3) may also be visited from Peterborough. The churches of *Castor* (see the present route, *ante*) and *Barnack* (Rte. 3) may be seen on the same day; and from the Helpstone Stat. on the rly. between Peterborough and Stamford, an excursion may be made to *Northborough Ch.* and *Woodcroft Castle.* Peterborough is also the best place from which to visit *Crowland*, which, although it is over the Lincolnshire border, is here described. *Milton Park* is within a pleasant walking distance of the city.

(a) *Milton Park* (Hon. Mrs. Fitzwilliam), about 2¼ m. W. of Peterborough, is generally open to pedestrians, and affords the pleasantest scenery in the immediate neighbourhood of the city. It is of some extent, and well wooded, although the ground is nowhere very much varied. Milton has been the seat, from an early period, of a branch of the Yorkshire Fitzwilliams, one of whom, Sir William Fitzwilliam, was attached to the household of Wolsey, and received the fallen cardinal here, when on his way to his deathbed in Leicester Abbey. A tree under which Wolsey rested is still shown in the park. The house was nearly rebuilt by the same Fitzwilliam, and contains portions dating from the first quarter of the 16th centy. Another Sir William Fitzwilliam was the gentle guardian of Queen Mary at Fotheringhay; and she gave him, on the morning of her execution, a portrait of James I., as a boy, which hung in her bedchamber. This picture is now at Milton.

(b) *Crowland* is best reached from Peterborough, and the historical antiquary should on no account neglect visiting a place which is, for him, so full of interest. The distance from Peterborough is 9½ m., and those who drive must proceed thence, since no carriage is to be had elsewhere. The pedestrian may proceed by rail either to the *Peakirk Stat.*, on the Gt. N. Rly., or to the *Eye Stat.*, on the Midland. The distance of either from Crowland is about 5 m. The approach to Crowland from Peakirk, along the rt. bank of the Welland, is striking in spite of its monotony, and well shows the remarkable position of the abbey. This walk may be recommended. That from Eye follows a road that would be taken in driving from Peterborough.

The *Peakirk* station is on the branch of the Gt. N. that runs to Spalding and Boston, and is 6 m. from Peterborough. Here we reach the border of the fens, and find at once a point of connexion with Crowland. Peakirk is the

church of St. Pega, the sister of St. Guthlac of Crowland, who founded a cell here about the year 716, whilst her brother retired to a yet more desolate stronghold among the marshes. The district was soon attached to the great monastery of Peterborough, but there was an attempt to make it a distinct religious house, and it was not without recourse to the king's court that Peterborough recovered the rights which had been assailed. The *Ch.* of Peakirk is interesting. The nave is of 3 bays, with a Norm. round-arched arcade N., and an E. Eng. arcade with pointed arches, S. The clerestory windows are lancets with trefoils. The lofty pointed chancel arch is Transitional, and therefore earlier than the S. arcade. The chancel is Perp., with large windows. There is a N. chantry, with a broad Perp. window, containing some fragments of stained glass. Lancets remain in the nave aisles, and in the S. aisle there are Dec. windows of 3 lights. The interior door of the S. porch is good Norm. N. of the E. window, and on a level with its base, is a curious quatrefoiled opening, which, it has been conjectured, may have served for the occasional exhibition of a relic (but ?). There was a venerated figure of St. Pega; and Robert Angell leaves by will, in 1566, "unto the repairinge of St. Pees image, ii strike of barley and xx^{d} in money." In the vestry is the stem of a Dec. lantern, worth notice. The church has been restored, new fittings introduced, and all the windows filled with modern stained glass. A short distance E. of the church is a small desecrated chapel, called the Hermitage. It dates from about 1270. St. Pega, it may be added, after the death of her brother, went to Rome, where she died, and was buried in a church, named, like this, in honour of her.

From Peakirk the pedestrian will follow the raised road along the river. He will find himself in a perfectly level district, with clumps and lines of trees on the low horizon, marking the sites of farms and villages; deep reed-beds by the river, which constantly overflows its banks; drains, banks, and droves (as the roads are called) on all sides, the usual accompaniments of the fens; whilst, if the day be favourable, the changing lights, the cries of wild birds which haunt the fens, and a certain feeling of space and freedom in spite of (or it may be owing to) the uniform level, "rounded about by the low wavering sky," give interest even to this Dutch-like country, especially if the thoughts of the traveller be filled with the ancient glories of Crowland. Long before he is within reach of the abbey, the great tower is seen across the plain, gleaming among its trees; whilst the village shows a long line of houses, barns, and hayricks, hardly raised above the level of the marsh. Crowland is, however, one of the many "islands" which even before the days of draining existed in the fens. The "Wash," which extends from Peakirk to Spalding, is the receptacle of all the overflowing waters of the Welland. That district is constantly flooded; but the works on the Bedford Level have drained completely the other side of Crowland, so that at present there is hardly sufficient water for the pastures. The place is no longer an island, and the corn land is as secure as elsewhere. In monastic days these crops were very uncertain, and the "bread corn" of the monks came from remote possessions. The country was then an enormous marsh, abounding in fish and wild fowl—"a wilderness of shallow waters and reedy islets."

The long, straggling village of *Crowland* (*Inn:* the George, where traps can be hired) rose, of course, round the monastery. In entering it from Peterborough the well-known

triangular bridge is first seen—once necessary for the crossing of the streams which ran down the N., E., and W. streets, and, joining here, passed toward Wisbeach. These streams are now conveyed underground, and the bridge serves as the village play-place. It is of late E. E. date, and its 3 steep sides are climbed by rude steps. The mouldings, ribs, and vaulting should all be noticed. The parapets are plain and solid. On the S. side, a weather-beaten figure, crowned, and holding a globe (?) in the right hand (the other arm has disappeared), sits with a melancholy air. This is Ethelbald of Mercia, founder of the monastery; but a local tradition asserts at present that the figure represents Oliver Cromwell (the last name of note connected with the abbey), holding a loaf in his hand.

Crowland (which in spite of frequent misspelling—as "Croyland," an error which dates from the time of the Domesday Survey, in which the name is written Croiland, and of the etymology of the Pseudo-Ingulf, who makes it the "muddy land"—really signifies the "land of crows") is indebted for the beginning of its reputation to Guthlac, a youth of the royal race of Mercia (born 673, died 713), who sought a refuge from the world in the solitude of the great fens. His legend tells of the hosts of evil spirits which assaulted him here, and which he put to flight by incessant prayers and penances. About 710, Ethelbald, one of the Mercian Athelings, came as a fugitive to Guthlac, who foretold that in due time he would become king. So it fell out; and after the death of Guthlac, Ethelbald the king built a stone church at Crowland (the earlier buildings were of wood), and endowed the monastery which had gradually been formed by those who gathered round the holy Guthlac. The house thus founded was destroyed in the Danish invasion of 866, and the Pseudo-Ingulf gives a very touching history of the murder of the abbot and of the monks and boys who had assembled in the church. But this history is more or less legendary, since the work assigned to Ingulf is certainly apocryphal (see *post*). All we can be assured of is that the monastery was then destroyed. A few monks who had escaped set up, we are told, an oratory in a corner of the ruined church. There they were found in the days of King Eadred by a clerk of royal race, named Thurcytel, who restored the church and monastery, and became the first abbot of the new foundation (946-955), and who passed on his office, by a kind of hereditary succession, to two of his own kindred. (Full details of all this history will be found in Ingulf, and it need hardly be said that Thurcytel was not likely to find at Crowland any survivors of the Danish "fury." To explain this difficulty we are told that three of these original monks died at marvellous ages—168, 142, and 115. They belonged to the "sempectæ," as the Crowland monks were called after arriving at their 50th year, when great privileges were allowed to them.) The great treasure of the house was still the body of St. Guthlac, whose patron, St. Bartholomew, became (together with Guthlac himself) the "protector" of the monastery. (Guthlac had arrived here on St. Bartholomew's day. The "discipline," or scourge, used by St. Guthlac had once, it was believed, belonged to the apostle, and remained one of the most precious relics in the church. Knives (the symbol of St. Bartholomew, referring to his traditional martyrdom by flaying) were given away on his feast-day to all comers, and are still occasionally found at Crowland). In the days of the Confessor, the Abbot Ulfcytel began a new church, toward which he received much

help from the famous Waltheof, Earl of Northampton and Huntingdon. (Orderic asserts that Waltheof gave the abbot his "land" of "Bernec" (Barnack); but see *Barnack*, Rte. 3). Waltheof's name was therefore greatly honoured at Crowland, and, after his beheading at Winchester in 1076, the monks, through the intercession of his widow Judith, obtained leave from the Conqueror to remove the body of Waltheof to the church of their convent. It was first buried in the chapter-house, but during the rule of Ingulf, successor of Ulfcytel, it was removed to the founder's place of honour by the high altar of the church. We are told that the body was still incorrupt, that the head was again joined to it, and that only a thin line of red marked where the headsman's axe had fallen. Miracles had already been wrought at the tomb, and became more numerous after the translation. Abbot Geoffry, Ingulf's successor, saw in vision the hero's tomb open, with St. Bartholomew holding the head of the body and St. Guthlac the feet. "He was an earl," said Guthlac. "And now a king," added the apostle. An epitaph, in Latin hexameters, was composed for the tomb of Waltheof by Ordericus Vitalis, who spent five weeks at Crowland about the year 1130—a visit to which we are indebted for all that is certainly known of the early history of the monastery. The account of Crowland will be found in Ord. Vital. lib. iv. With respect to the authenticity of the history assigned to the Abbot Ingulf, it may be sufficient to refer to the papers of Mr. H. T. Riley, in the 'Archæological Journal,' vol. xix. pp. 32 and 114. Doubts had long been entertained by scholars, and Mr. Riley's thorough examination of the history, and the charters inserted in it, has left no doubt at all about their character. They are forgeries and compilations of the 15th cent.

The later story of Crowland has no very marked character. The annual value at the suppression was 1217*l.* 5*s.* 11½*d.*—*Speed.*

The existing remains are those of the monastic *church*, one aisle of which now serves as that of the parish. Ulfcytel, as we have seen, began a new church in the days of the Confessor. This, it is said, was entirely destroyed by fire in 1091. Abbot Geoffry began a great rebuilding in 1113. An earthquake, in 1118, threw down part of this new work, which was, however, at once restored. In the E. E. period the W. front of the nave was added. Considerable works were done in the time of Abbot Overton, in 1405 and the following years. The body of the church (the nave and aisles) was, in fact, rebuilt, together with the transepts and the Lady Chapel. The upper part of the W. front was also reconstructed at this time, or a little earlier. A tower, W. of the N. aisle, was built in 1427. The N. nave aisle was vaulted by Abbot Litlington, about 1464; and at a still later period was added a W. porch with a room above it. Portions of all these periods remain in the existing ruin, which, interesting as it is, strikes us as scanty and hardly important in proportion to the reputation of the house. The Perp. work is not specially remarkable. But the great times of Crowland were over when the rebuilding of the church began, and apparently the earlier church had become much ruined. (This is indicated by the manner in which the Perp. work is brought up to the Norm. tower arch.) Probably, in the 15th centy. there was no such resort to the shrines of Waltheof and of Guthlac as had brought wealth to the church in its earlier days. The house however was always famous for its hospitality, and "Crowland as courteous as courteous may be" is the character given to it (see *ante*, Peterborough)

in verses which describe the great monasteries of the fens. The curious expression, "curst Crowland," which is also found, seems due to a corruption of "courteous."

The W. front of the church consists of the tower at the end of the N. aisle (now the parish church), and porch projecting from it; the ruined front of the nave, and a fragment of the front of the S. aisle. All this ruined portion was in 1860 in a very unsafe condition, and masses had fallen from above the great W. window. It was placed in the hands of *Sir G. G. Scott*, who, by the aid of powerful screw-jacks, brought the whole mass back into position, renewed and secured the foundations, took down and rebuilt half the arcaded front of the S. aisle, and underpinned and strengthened other portions. It was found that the whole had been built directly on the peat soil, more than a foot of which was still compressed between the foundation and the bed of gravel below. This was remedied; and the most ancient portion of the great church is now safe.

The lower part of the front, with the portal, and the 2 arches with canopied niches on either side of the W. window, are E. E., of pure and very beautiful character. The great window itself, from which the tracery has vanished, and the upper tiers of niches, are Perp. This Perp. window succeeded a rich E. E. triplet, of which the jambs and shafts remain on the eastern side of the wall. The W. portal is divided by a central shaft; and in the tympanum is a large and deep quatrefoil in which are sculptured 5 scenes from the life of St. Guthlac. (Compare the E. E. portal and sculpture at *Higham Ferrers*, Rte. 2). The figures which remain in the upper niches of the front, seem to be (at the top) the Apostles under canopies,—the Saviour and the Virgin in the centre. Below are bishops, knights, and kings, not easily identified. The small portion of the S. aisle front is part of the church begun by Abbot Geoffry in 1113. It shows remains of arcades, some of them intersecting. The two W. buttresses of the nave, the mass of which is Perp., are built over the late Norm. buttresses, still partly visible.

Within, the ruined nave displays the Perp. rebuilding of 1405. It was of 9 bays from the W. front to the central tower, the Norm. arch of which remains, walled up. Three entire arches of the S. arcade (Perp.) remain. There are traces of the Norman arcade and triforium in the wall adjoining the tower arch; but the last Perp. arch (of the height of the Norm. triforium) is filled half-way up with solid masonry, panelled on the W. front. This was evidently intended as a support to the tower. The Norm. tower arch is lofty, with zigzag moulding. The wall now filling it is built up with fragments of all sorts,—partly perhaps from the choir, which stretched far eastward, but has quite disappeared.

The *tower*, at the end of the N. aisle, was built, as we know, in 1427; no doubt as a campanile, since the great central tower must then have been too weak for hanging the bells. The aisle within (now the parish church) is pewed and galleried, and hardly suggests recollections of St. Guthlac or of Waltheof. The eastern part of the great church, with the transepts, was taken down soon after the Dissolution. The nave and aisles remained, and served as the parish church till the close of the 17th centy., when the nave-roof fell in, and the S. aisle became ruinous. The N. aisle was then fitted as at present; and it seems probable that before the Dissolution, this aisle (then called the *lower* ch.) had already been appropriated to the parish. The tower within has lofty Perp. arches N. and S.; on the E. side the arrangement is peculiar. Below is an open Perp. arch, ad-

mitting to the aisle; and above it, rising to the height of the side arches, is a second arch or window, filled with Perp. open tracery. On the W. side the arch rises to the full height, and a closed gallery runs across below the Perp. window. It may be here noticed that a fragment of the Norm. W. front of this aisle remains between the porch and the tower, but can only be seen by climbing to it. In the aisle, remark the fine bosses of the roof, and the open-work (Perp.) rood-screen, which must have been removed here from the great church. Two chapels, divided by a wall, opened N. from this aisle. There are no monuments of interest; and the bells (except perhaps the first) are not ancient. The old bells of Crowland were famous, and one of the earliest "rings" in England.

East of the great church was what was known as "Anchor Church House" (Anchorage), built, it was asserted, on the site of Guthlac's first cell. A hillock marks the place, and "an old decayed building" was pulled down in 1720.

Crowland was garrisoned, and the abbey fortified, by the Royalists in 1643. An unfortunate Mr. Ram, the Vicar of Spalding, had busied himself on the side of the Parliament, and having been taken by Captain Welby, who commanded the king's troops in Crowland, he was brought out and placed in front of the breastwork when Cromwell's troops came to assault the place. They, it is said, mistook him for the Royalist priest of the town, and directed their shot against him for many days, but without much injury to him. The place was taken by Cromwell, May 9, 1643.

ROUTE 3.

PETERBOROUGH TO STAMFORD (BURGHLEY).

Midland Railway.

(Stamford may be reached from Peterborough either by the branch line which runs from the *Sibson* Stat. on the L. and N. W. line (Rte. 2), and which has stations at Ufford Bridge and Barnack; or by the Midland line, followed in the present route. This is the shorter journey, the time occupied being about ½ hr. By the Sibson line it is nearly ¾ hr. This latter is the most convenient for those who wish to visit Barnack, although that place may also be reached by the present route. The Sibson trains leave Peterborough from the station across the Nen.)

Leaving Peterborough from the upper station (that of the Gt. N. and Midland Rlys.), we proceed for some time (until leaving the Helpston Stat.) in a parallel course with the Gt. N. Rly., which runs to the rt. We pass through a district of no great interest to the first *station* at

Walton. This is a hamlet in the parish of *Paston*, the *Church* of which lies ½ m. rt. The nave is Perp.; the chancel and adjoining N. chantry E. E., as is the W. tower, on which is set a very graceful broach spire of about 1320. The stair-turret, with its pointed roof, is a striking addition to the whole composition. This tower and spire are the chief points of interest here. [The little church of *Werrington*, 1 m. N., another hamlet of Paston, has Norm. E. E. and Dec. portions. *Marholme*, 1½ m. W. of the Walton Station (St. Mary's holme—the ch. is ded. to her)

is more important. The low tower may be E. E.; the nave, arches, and the chancel arch date from about 1300. The chancel was rebuilt at the cost of Sir William Fitzwilliam, of Milton (1524–1534). There are some remains of stained glass in the chancel, besides portions of achievements and armour belonging to the Fitzwilliams, for whom also there are some monuments. (1) *Brasses* of Sir William Fitzwilliam (d. 1534) and wife, in heraldic dresses. He was the re-builder of the chancel, and had been one of the retainers of Wolsey, whom he received at Milton (see Rte. 2, *Milton*). The canopy is carried on twisted iron bars and stone spiral shafts. (2) An altar-tomb, with coloured effigies of another Sir W. Fitzwilliam, "Lord-Lieutenant of ye Kingdom of Ireland," and wife (date 1529). He is in armour. (3) A small marble pillar for a son of Lady Fitzwilliam, 1646. The inscription runs:

"Grassante bello civili,
To the courteous soldier.
Noe crucifixe you see, noe Frightful Brand,
Of supⁿstition's here. Pray let mee stand."

(4) A vast erection, partly blocking two windows, with full-length standing effigies of Earl Fitzwilliam, 1719, and his wife Anna, 1727; "Jacob. Fisher de Camberwell fecit." The church was restored in 1868.]

The next *Station* is reached at *Helpston*. The market-town of *Market-Deeping* (see *Handbook for Lincolnshire*,—it is just across the border) is distant 4 m. The village of Helpston lies ½ m. l. of the stat. The *Church* is of some interest, E. E. and Dec., but much altered. There is a good Dec. window at the E. end of the S. aisle; and the square tower, which dies into an octagon, is surmounted by a low spire. This tower has been entirely rebuilt with the old materials, but is said to be "rigorously identical" with the former. It is Norm. below, and above of the 14th centy. In the N. aisle is the matrix of a *brass* for Roger de Hegham, who died between 1297–1310. In pulling down the tower, it was found that the foundations were Saxon, with long-and-short work. Some early headstones also were found. A cross, raised on steps, probably of the same date as the upper part of the tower, stands in the village; and near it is a monument, erected in 1869, as a memorial of John Clare, the "peasant-poet" of Northamptonshire, born here in 1793, of parents then receiving parish relief. He died 1864, in the Lunatic Asylum at Northampton, where he had been placed for some years. (A 'Life of Clare,' by F. Martin, was published by Macmillan in 1865.) There are large mills at Helpston for the manufacture of air-dried brown paper.

[An interesting excursion may be made from this station to *Woodcroft Castle* and to the manor-house and church of *Northborough*—a round (returning to the station) of about 6 m. The village of *Etton*, in which par. Woodcroft stands is about 1½ m. N. of Helpston Station. *Woodcroft* is between the station and the village, and should be first visited. Although called a castle, it is in fact a good example of a manor-house of the time of Edw. I. and was hardly designed for a place of strength. Hubert and Roger of Woodcroft held property here in the reigns of Edw. I. and II., and a certain Lawrence of Preston also held part of a knight's fee at Woodcroft, under the abbot of Peterborough, at the same period. To one of these persons the house may be assigned. It is surrounded by a moat which washes the walls in one part; and the house consists of two portions, one more than twice as long as the other. These meet at a right angle, and in this corner is a small round tower. In the centre of the longer wing is the gateway, which leads completely through the

house, without doors on either side. The entrance to the interior is by a door at the junction of the 2 wings. The greater part of the house has only 2 stories, but over the gateway there is a 3rd, so as to form a sort of tower; and here is said to have been the chapel. The round tower has also a 3rd storey, and there was originally a round tower at each end (now destroyed). The towers have a plain parapet, and do not seem to have been embattled. The windows on the ground-floor are small. Those of the upper story are all of one light with a transom. The basement has no original communication with the rest of the house, and may therefore have been used for storage. The space enclosed by the moat is nearly square, the house occupying one side and part of another. The quadrangle may have been completed by offices built of wood and plaster, as at the Mote at Ightham in Kent. The interior is so completely modernized that nothing can be made out of the old arrangement. It has been suggested that the design of the house, which is unusual, may have been supplied by some architect from Normandy, employed by John of Caux, the Abbot of Peterborough, who at the same time was building the Infirmary there. In 1648 Woodcroft was held out for a short time by Dr. Michael Hudson, one of Charles I.'s chaplains, with a handful of men, against the troops of the Parliament. The place was taken. "The projecting gurgoyle from the parapet is still shown, to which Hudson clung, till the assailants, who had gained the tower chopped off his fingers, and he fell into the moat below. Here, while he was swimming to shore, the soldiers killed him with their pikes."—*James.* Hudson is in part the original of Dr. Rochecliffe in 'Woodstock,' and his story has been made to play an important part in the novel.

The *Church* of *Etton* has early portions but is of no great interest. 1½ m. N. E. is *Northborough*, which deserves a visit. The *Church* dates from the middle of the 14th cent., and the S. aisle is, in especial, of beautiful design and execution; with richly traceried windows, the mouldings of which are much ornamented with the ball-flower. Underneath is a spacious vault, and under the large S. window 2 arched recesses, now without effigies. But in the ch.-yd. of the adjoining par. of Glinton are 2 mutilated stone effigies, of a knight and lady, temp. Edw. III. The knight, besides his sword, has a bugle horn suspended from his side, the badge of a forester. The Delamares were foresters of Kesteven; and the effigies may be those of Geoffry Delamare and his wife, daughter of Geoffry le Scrope, —the last of their family here, and the builders of the manor-house and church of Northborough. How the effigies were removed from the church is not clear. The *Manor-house*, once much larger, stands at no great distance, and is of the same date as the church. The remains consist of gatehouse and hall, forming opposite sides of a court, with some portions of buildings adjoining the hall. It was perhaps at first a quadrangle. The gatehouse has lost its top. The hall, 36 ft. by 24, is lighted by square headed, transomed windows, 2 on each side. The external details are excellent. There is a continued ball-flower ornament, in a deeply hollowed moulding, under the eaves, and the W. gable is enriched with crockets, and terminated by a small, well designed chimney. Within, the doors of the screen remain, and are richly ornamented with crockets and ball-flower. The cross-building probably contained a portion of the buttery, kitchens, and offices. N., and opening into the hall, is a porch of Hen. VII.'s time; and connected with the gatehouse is a range of stabling erected in the reign of

Ch. I. (There are some remains of an ancient parsonage house at Market Deeping which should be compared with Woodcroft and Northborough.) This venerable house came eventually into the hands of the Claypoles, one of whom, John Claypole, married Elizabeth, the favourite daughter of Cromwell. She died here, but was buried in Westminster Abbey. Her mother, however, the wife of the Protector, who also died here, was buried in the church of Northborough, where there are some Claypole memorials.

(The *Church* of *Maxey* lies 2 m. W. of Northborough. It has a Norm. nave, and a Norm. tower of 3 stages, enriched with an external arcade. The whole church, restored 1864, deserves notice. The King Street, an ancient road which branched due N. from the Ermine Street at Castor crosses the Welland a little W. of Maxey church; and the ruins of Lolham Bridges (11 arches remain) indicate its line).

The return to *Helpston Stat.* may be by the village of *Glinton*, where the *Ch.* is interesting. It belongs mainly to the second half of the 14th centy. The E. window is Perp. The font is Norm. The tower carries a lofty "needle" spire.]

Leaving the station at Helpston, the rly. bends round westward, and ceases to run parallel with the Gt. N. line. There is nothing to be noted until we reach the

Uffington and *Barnack Station.* Uffington, on the Lincolnshire side of the Welland, lies about 1 m. N. of the station. Barnack, 1¼ m. S., but much nearer to the Barnack Station on the short rly. from Sibson to Stamford (see Rte. 2). The church of *Uffington* is E. E. (nave arcades) late Dec. (chancel), and Perp. (tower and spire and N. chantry). The tower and spire are very good. The roof and chancel arch were curiously plastered and painted in 1684. The N. chantry, rich in modern stained glass is the "chapel" of Lord Kesteven, whose seat is at Casewick, 1 m. distant. Far more important and attractive, however, is *Barnack*, famous for its ancient stone quarries, and still more famous for its church. The tower of Barnack is one of the most interesting examples in this country, of the earlier Romanesque (see for some remarks on this subject, Rte. 2, *Earl's Barton*), as it was developed in England before the Norman Conquest. The church consists of W. tower, nave, and aisles, chancel, and N. and S. chantries.

The *tower* has long-and-short work at the angles, and narrow, square-edged bands of stone project from all four walls at intervals. A plain string-course, of the same character as the upright ribs, runs horizontally along the walls, dividing the tower about midway. On the S. side, over a small window is a rude carving of two birds; and above this is the trace of a circular sun-dial. (This occurs also at Earl's Barton.) Higher up is a small window opening, pierced with a peculiar pattern. Resting on the middle string-course, in the centre of the S., W., and N. sides, is a stone about 6 ft. high and 2 ft. broad, built upright into the wall. On each stone is rude carving; the design being an upright staff with many offsets, curled and twisted. On the summit of the staff is perched a bird. A doorway, the triangular heading of which is formed by 2 slabs of stone set edgeways, has been blocked up. The tower is built of Barnack rag. It is not so massive, so rude, or so enriched with stone strips, as Earl's Barton; but the general character is the same, and we have the same impression of remote antiquity. How far the peculiar carvings and ornaments indicate a Danish builder is uncertain; but the population of this part of England was, and for a long time continued, if not entirely Danish, yet

penetrated by Danish influence, which we may suppose extended to art as well as to language.

On the upper part of the tower is set an E. E. octagon, flanked by 4 pinnacles, and surmounted by a low broach spire. There is an excellently designed belfry window at each of the cardinal points; and the whole unites in a very striking manner with the more ancient tower.

Within the church the tower arch must be first noticed. It is semicircular, and the imposts, with projecting ribs of stone, are quite unlike any others of even this early period. (They can only be understood by drawings.) This, the original arch, is stopped with E. E. work, in which is set a good E. E. portal. The change of the primitive church was begun early in the 12th cent., when the arcade of the *N. nave aisle* was built. This aisle must have been an addition. The arcade has tall shafts, with richly carved caps. and richly moulded arches. The *S. aisle* was added at the beginning of the E. E. period; and the arcade has banded shafts, though the arches remain circular. To it is attached one of the most beautiful *porches* in this part of the country. It has a lofty entrance arch, with excellent mouldings, shafts, and caps.; and within on each side is an arcade of 4 arches. The roof is a high pointed gable, of stone without, and vaulted within. In the Dec. period many changes were made in aisles and chancel. The E. window, the piscina and sedilia are of this date. (There are fragments of Dec. glass in the window.) The S. and N. chantries are Perp. In the S. chantry, which is much enriched, is a niche over the N. side of the altar, containing a sculpture of the Immaculate Conception (?). The church contains one or two canopied tombs, and 2 effigies brought from the demolished chapel of Pilsgate; but while each portion of the building is interesting the tower remains the great object of attraction to archæologists. It may be added that there is a local tradition that the church was burnt by the Danish Swend; and that the tower was built in reparation by his son Canute. It is asserted that, before the Conquest, Barnack belonged, first to the Peterborough monastery, and afterwards, by grant of Waltheof, to Crowland. But this is doubtful; since the Domesday survey gives us Bundi as the possessor in King Edward's days. William Fitz Ansculf was the first Norman Lord. Then came a family named from the place, "de Bernak;" and at last it passed into the hands of the Cecils. Monastic houses like Peterborough and Crowland coveted Barnack for the sake of its *quarries*, famous from a very early period, but no longer worked. They have in fact been exhausted for nearly 4 centuries; and the strangely broken and tossed ground near the village, which marks their site, is known as the "Hills and Holes." It is impossible to look without much interest on the place from which the building stone was procured for so many great churches and monasteries. It belongs to an upper bed of the inferior oolite; and is very full of shells, some of the beds being composed almost entirely of shells agglutinated by a kind of calcareous cement. The stone is very hard and durable, qualities which were soon discovered by builders throughout eastern England. No precisely similar stone is now worked; but that of the Weldon quarries (see Rte. 10) is perhaps the equivalent of the Barnack beds.

[2 m. S. W. of Barnack is *Wittering*, lying on the old great north road. (On the way is passed *Walcot Hall*, R. H. C. Nevile, Esq.) For Wittering church, which, like Barnack, has some very early portions, see Rte. 2, where the line from Sibson to Stamford is described.]

Returning to the railway, we soon reach the next *station* at

Stamford. (There are here 2 stations, one belonging to the line we have been following; another in connexion with the branch of the G. N. R., running from Stamford to Essendine. For the continuation of the Midland line from Stamford, see Rte. 13.) Pop. in 1871, 7897. *Hotels:* "The Hotel," in St. Mary's-street, begun 1810, from designs by *Bond*, finished 1829. The figure of Justice which crowns it is by *Rosse*, R.A. The *George* (best), in St. Martin's; a large, somewhat gaunt hostel, conveniently placed on what used to be the "Great North road." This inn was famous in the days of coaches and highwaymen. The latter much frequented the roads about Stamford. It may have been at this inn that Thoresby, the Leeds antiquary, was detained for 4 days by the state of the roads (temp. Chas. II.), and was relieved by a company of 14 M. P.s travelling toward London, who took him into their party, and set forward with competent guides. Porteous, Bp. of London, married a daughter of the landlord. On the front are the coats of arms of persons connected with the neighbourhood, and the crest of Cecil. Chas. I. slept here Aug. 23, 1645, on his way from Newark to Huntingdon.

The greater part of Stamford (the name probably indicates an ancient ford at this place, across the Welland, which runs through the town) lies in Lincolnshire, the river being the boundary between that county and Northamptonshire. The Lincolnshire "burgh" was a royal one. The quarter lying in Northamptonshire (St. Martin's) belonged to the Abbots of Peterborough, who held it by baronial tenure, and it was (and is) known as *Stamford Baron.* Stamford occurs (as Stanford) in the grant of Wulphere, in A.D. 657, to Saxulf, 1st Abbot of Medeshamstede (Peterborough). It became one of the principal places in the Denalagh, the part of England subdued and settled by the Danes; and is one of the "Five Burghs" (the others were Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester) which, under Danish rule, had not only special privileges of their own, but a common organization apparently of the nature of confederation. In 922, Stamford was recovered from the Danes by Edward the Elder, who "fared with an army" to the place, and "worked a burgh" on the south side of the river; "and all the folk who belonged to the northern burgh submitted to him, and sought him for their lord." This was during the great struggle of Edward and his sister Ethelflæd, "Lady of the Mercians," with the Danes, when many other "burghs" were built. See *Towcester*, Rte. 5; and *Bedford* (*Hdbk. for Beds, Rte.* 1). Whilst Edward "was sitting" at Stamford his sister died at Tamworth. (Sax. Chron. *ad ann.*) A double "burgh," or stronghold, is also mentioned at Bedford, where the Ouse is the dividing river. Notwithstanding "submission" of the Danes, however, Stamford was still in some way under their control in 941; when the English Chronicle, breaking into verse, tells us of the delivery of the five burghs, "held in heathen's bond, for a long space," till the warrior's refuge, King Edmund, "through his worthiness again released them." In the Domesday Survey, Stamford, like Lincoln, is recorded as under the rule of 12 lagemanni, or "lawmen," who may possibly represent the old Danish organization. It was in effect a "burgh by prescription," when its first charter was granted by Hen. III. Lying as it does on what is now the Great North Road, and connected with the Ermyn Street (which crossed the Welland somewhat to the west) by a "way" which can still be traced, Stamford was con-

stantly visited by English sovereigns, although a distinction far beyond any of these visits is conferred on the place by Justice Shallow's brief query, "How a yoke of bullocks at Stamford fair?" King John was often here; and in Easter week, 1215, the army of the Barons assembled here before marching to Bury St. Edmund's, and so to London. Edw. I. (frequently), Edw. II., and Edw. III., visited Stamford. The body of Queen Eleanor rested here on its way (1290) from Harby to Westminster; and a cross was duly erected at Stamford, which was entirely destroyed during the civil war. Edw. IV. (March 13, 1470) fought the battle afterwards known as that of Losecoat field, against the Lancastrians led by Sir Robert Welles, a few miles N. of the town, and was opportunely assisted by a contingent of the townsfolk, who had suffered terribly from Lancastrian ravages in 1461 (see *post*). (See *Handbook for Lincolnshire.*) Sir T. Wells, Sir Thomas Dymoke, and Sir Thomas de la Lande, were afterwards beheaded in Stamford. Hen. VIII., Elizabeth, Jas. I., and Chas. I., all visited the town; and Chas. I., after his escape from Hampton Court, arrived here (May 3, 1646) in the disguise of a servant, and was received in the house of Alderman Wolph. On the 4th, at midnight, he set out again, attended by Ashburnham. William III. was here, Oct. 28, 1696; George IV., in 1816; and Queen Victoria has twice visited Stamford. These royal visits, many of which, after the reign of Elizabeth, were as much connected with Burghley as with Stamford, constitute in fact the later history of the town.

Another great distinction belongs to Stamford. It narrowly missed becoming a serious rival of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The teaching in the religious houses of the Carmelites and the Austin Friars here became celebrated about the middle of the 13th cent.; and in 1266, when the students, who had settled at Northampton (see Rte. 1), returned in a body to their old quarters at Oxford, some few of them preferred a withdrawal to Stamford. In 1292 Robert Luttrell founded Sempringham Hall at Stamford for students of the Gilbertine order. Other schools were established in 1309 by William Whetely (both Luttrell and Whetely were Oxford men); and in Nov. 1333 there was a large secession (caused by the disputes between northern and southern students) to this place of masters and scholars from Oxford, whose numbers were augmented in the following year. They set up halls at Stamford; but the old universities remonstrated, and the king ordered the return of the students, on pain of confiscation of their goods by the sheriff of Lincoln. Notwithstanding this, a few seem to have lingered on for a year or two. Both universities defended their privileges by statutes, which provided that there should be no "inception" in any faculty except at Oxford and Cambridge. Students of Cambridge, however, are said to have migrated here for a short time in 1463. It was asserted that a prophecy of Merlin foretold the fame of the "stony ford;" an "old sawe," which, in Spenser's words, predicted a time—

> "Which shall see Stamford, though now homely laid,
> Then shine in learning more than ever did
> Cambridge or Oxford, England's goodly beams."

A touch of University reputation thus rests on Stamford, and there are a few remaining relics of these times, although the stay of the students was but brief. The wealth and influence of ancient Stamford was mainly due to its position and its consequent commercial importance. It was a merchant's town in the

reign of John, when a particular sort of cloth was manufactured here; and Lord Burghley induced many of the Low Country exiles to remove from London to Stamford, where they did much for the weaving trade. Old merchants' houses are frequent in the town; and four hospitals, locally called "Callis," belonged probably to woolstaplers of Calais, and were named accordingly.

The older, or royal Stamford (the walled town), on the N. bank of the Welland, is a somewhat tangled collection of streets and houses, with a large open market square. St. Martin's, or Stamford Baron, in Northamptonshire, has one long broad street leading up the hill toward the entrance of Burghley. No town in England has suffered more than Stamford from the loss of those mediæval buildings which gave it special character. Almost all the churches without the walls, and one or two of those within, were, it is said, destroyed in 1461 by the army of the Lancastrians, under Andrew Trollop. However this may be, it is certain that 10 churches, besides 6 religious houses, 2 hospitals, and 4 collegiate halls, have disappeared utterly. Hardly a trace remains of the walls, or of the two strongholds, one of which probably did not survive the Conquest; while the other, on the S. side of the river, having been converted into a Norman castle, was nearly destroyed in the 12th centy. The appearance therefore of ancient Stamford must have been very different, and far more striking than that of the existing town. Yet there still remain on either side of the Welland very fine and important *churches*, which, as the chief objects of interest here, may be first described. These are —St. Mary's (the principal church of the town), All Saints', St. George's, and St. John's, in Lincolnshire; and St. Martin's, on the Northamptonshire side. Three of these, St. Mary's, All Saints', and St. George's, were originally E. E., belonging to the first quarter of the 13th centy. The other two are Perp.

St. Mary's, the E. E. tower (the spire is Dec.) of which is conspicuous as we cross the bridge over the Welland, stands well on high ground. The *tower* has many tiers of arcading, some of the arches being trefoil-headed; and the dog-tooth occurs. The whole surface is covered by these arcades, of which there are 5 on the N. and S. sides, while on the W. the place of the lower arcades is occupied by the doorway and its accessories. Over the door is a round panel, filled with interlaced work, which somewhat recals the sculptured stones at Barnack (see *ante*). The broach *spire* was added about the year 1300, and is of great beauty. It is banded at the angles, without pinnacles, but enriched with canopies and statues at the base, and the spire lights are set in very bold projections. There is nothing in the body of the church so good as the tower. The *nave* is early Perp., with lofty slender piers and arches, and a small clerestory above. The E. E. tower arch should be noticed. The *chancel* arch is E. E. The E. window and open roof are modern. St. Nicholas's chapel opens S. of the chancel by an early Dec. arch. St. Mary's chapel, N., has a rich cradle roof of timber, coloured, and powdered with stars, given by Alderman Hickham in 1467. In the N. wall are 2 recesses of Dec. character. In one is placed a figure, which seems to have been taken from a niche (St. Mary?); in the other is the effigy of a knight (with shield of Browne), temp. Edw. III. Above this tomb is an ogee arched Dec. window, which is of the same date. It is probable that the tomb is that of the founder of the chapel. The matrix of the brass of Ald. Hickham remains here; and the door which opens to the chapel from the chancel must have been his insertion. On the S. side, on a rich

altar-tomb, are the effigies of Sir David Phillips, who was attached to the household of Q. Margaret of York, and his wife. Both wear collars of SS.

All Saints' (restored 1857) is in some respects more interesting. It stands well, in the centre of a rising ground, surrounded by irregular and picturesque houses. The lofty Perp. tower with spire (152 ft.) is attached to this end of the S. aisle. The sides are panelled, and good as the design is, it suffers in comparison with the earlier work at St. Mary's. The spire is flanked by octagonal turrets. The rest of the church is mainly E. E., with insertions of later date. The whole of the exterior seems to have had a line of very fine E. E. arcading below the windows. This remains perfect on the S. side, and is continued round the E. end. (Some of the caps. are leafed.) It may also be traced round the W. front, under the great Perp. window and the W. window of the S. aisle; but here the E. E. shafts alone remain. The arches were altered in Perp. times. The windows of nave and chancel are Perp. insertions. At the W. end of S. aisle is a very beautiful recessed porch, of early Perp. character. The nave is E. E.; the S. arcade being richer than that N. The caps. have fine foliage. There is a clerestory of small windows, almost continuous. The chancel is Perp., with modern reredos and screen. The chapel on the S. side has E. E. portions. (The extreme irregularity of ground-plan deserves notice. There is throughout hardly a right angle, or one line parallel with another. Yet the main plan is entirely of one date—E. E.) In the N. aisle are the *brasses* of John Browne, merchant of the staple of Calais, d. 1442, in sleeved gown, standing on woolpacks; of his wife Margaret, d. 1460; and John Browne, his son, d. 1475, and wife. He wears an alderman's mantle. The S. chapel has the brass of another son, William Browne, d. 1489, and wife. He is the recorded builder of the tower and spire; and the founder of the hospital named after him (see *post*). In the ch.-yd. is a very curious *well*, with subterranean arches supporting portions of the solid rock over it.

St. George's was originally E. E.; but was greatly injured (almost destroyed) by fire in the 14th centy. The E. E. piers of the nave were circular; but after the fire those portions which remained were placed between octagonal additions of Dec. character, so as to give increased height. There are other remarkable adaptations, and the church was again altered in the 15th centy. (The chancel arch is of this date.) The W. tower is E. E., with a Dec. window inserted. On the N. side of the chancel is the monument of Sir Richard and Lady Cust, with statue of Lady Cust, by *Bacon*, 1797. There are figs. of St. Catherine and St. Anne, in the E. window of the chancel; a kneeling fig. on the S. side; and opposite, the arms of William Burges, "Garter King at Arms," and probably a native of Stamford. To this Willam Burges the restoration, and in part rebuilding of the church during the Perp. period, is entirely due; the result being that in spite of E. E. and Dec. portions the general appearance is Perp. His will, dated Feb. 26, 1449, orders that his body should be buried "in the middle of the quere," and provides for the "complishyng and ending" of works which were still in progress. The chancel windows were filled by him with glass, bearing the figures of Edw. III., and the 25 first Knights of the Garter. St. George was the patron saint of the order.

St. John's is a small Perp. church, of no very great interest. The tower is at the W. end of the N. aisle. There is a lofty nave arcade, with

clerestory. The roof, which has angel brackets, is coloured red and black. In the upper lights of the N. aisle are considerable remains of very excellent stained glass. The E. and W. windows are modern and bad. The chancel retains some good woodwork, and against the E. wall of the S. aisle are *brasses* for Alderman Byldesdon and wife, d. 1489, and Henry Sergeaunt, rector, d. 1497.

St. Martin's Church, on the S. side of the Welland, is entirely Perp., and was built (on the site of an earlier church, destroyed by the Lancastrians in 1461) by John Russell, Bp. of Lincoln, circ. 1482. The exterior in all parts which meet the eye is rich, and the masonry excellent, but the interior is far better. "The effect, when once the porch is passed, is faultless; and the grandeur arising from its loftiness and its uncrowded space reconciles one to the loss of the picturesqueness of the earlier styles."—*G. A. Poole.* The tower is of 4 stages. The piers of the nave are very lofty. In the spandrels are angels bearing shields, and the timber roof is carried on moulded corbels. The chancel is of 4 bays, with a Lady Chapel N.; and, beyond, the modern mortuary chapel of the Cecils. There is much stained glass, brought here during the last century from the collegiate church of Tattershall in Lincolnshire and elsewhere. It is good, but loses, of course, much of its interest from not having originally belonged to this church. The Cecil *monuments* are of great importance. At the E. end of the N. chancel aisle are the effigies, at a desk, of Richard Cecil and his wife — father and mother of the great Lord Burghley. Richard Cecil died March 19, 1553, and was buried at St. Margaret's, Westminster. Above the figures is an inscription, "In happy memory of Richard Cecil, Esquire, and Jayne his wife." (She was daughter and heiress of Wm. Heckington of Bourne, in Lincolnshire, where the future Lord Treasurer was born, Sept. 13, 1520.) Between aisle and chancel, on a fine canopied tomb of alabaster and marble, is the effigy of the great Lord Treasurer Burghley, who died in London, Aug. 4, 1598. (There were 2 funerals, one at Westminster, and one at Stamford, both on Aug. 28. The body was probably conveyed to Stamford, where Burghley states in his will that he had "already provided a burial-place.") He is in armour, with the red robes of the Garter, of which order he wears the star. In his left hand is the Treasurer's wand. The whole is a very fine and elaborate example of its period, and resembles in some of its details the work at Burghley House. (Compare especially the ornaments on the canopy with those on the staircase at Burghley.) The new chapel was added in 1864. It contains a monument for the 2nd Marquis of Exeter, d. 1867, and some others. Against the N. wall of this chapel is a vast monument (formerly in the aisle), towering to the roof, by *Monnot*, of Rome. This is for John, Earl of Exeter, who died 1706, and Anne, his countess, whose elaborately reclining figures are attended by Minerva and the "goddess of arts and sciences"—whoever she may be. This Earl, we are told, lived at home "eleganter, sumptuose, splendide."

In this church was buried William Wissing, a portrait painter of some note, who died at Burghley, where he had been employed, Sept. 10, 1687.

Other points of interest in Stamford are the *Hospitals*, the *Grammar School*, the remains of *St. Leonard's Priory*, and some other fragments, domestic and ecclesiastical. Of the hospitals, that called the *Burghley Bedehouse* is on the Northamptonshire side of the Welland, immedi-

ately beyond the bridge. There was at this place a hospital dedicated to St. John the Baptist and St. Thomas of Canterbury, "for the entertaining of travellers," founded, towards the end of Henry II.'s reign, by a certain Brand, who became a monk of Peterborough. This hospital had a bridge chapel, of which no part remains; but a Norm. capital, buttress, and water-arch are worked into the Bedehouse, erected on the site by Lord Burghley, in 1597. He endowed it with an annual 100*l.*, for the maintenance of 12 poor men and a warden. The river-front, with its tall chimneys and gable, is picturesque. More ancient and more important is *Browne's Hospital*, in Broad-street. This was founded by William Browne, merchant, temp. Ed. IV., as an almshouse for poor of each sex and for two chaplains. The endowment was completed, and a charter obtained from Henry VII. by Browne's brother-in-law and executor, Thomas Stokke, Canon of York. This venerable hospital has been restored and enlarged. There is a good entrance-porch, battlemented, and flanked with canopied niches; and on the side of the street are seen the transomed windows of the audit-room and chapel, and a lower range, lighting the dormitories. The *interior* arrangement resembled that of other and earlier hospitals (the best example is that of St. Mary's Hospital at Chichester) in having a long hall with a central passage, from which the rooms of the brethren opened on either side, and a chapel at the end, divided from the hall by a screen of carved wood. The chapel here is of two bays, with stalls and carved bench-ends, and some very fine Perp. stained glass in the S. window. At the top are 4 whole-length male figures; at the bottom 4 half-length female. The glass has been mutilated and transposed; but the Holy Trinity, St. John the Baptist, St. James, St. Catherine, the Blessed Virgin, and St. Barbara, are to be distinguished. The "marks" of Browne also appear here: Sa. 3 hammers arg., a heart with a B, and a Maltese cross. There is some glass of similar character, and quite as fine, in the audit-room in the upper story, which deserves a visit. The subjects here are David, Solomon, and St. Paul. The revenue of Browne's Hospital is nearly 4000*l.* a year, and a portion of it, under a modern scheme, is applied to the "educational purposes" of the town. (It has been asserted that part of Browne's dwelling-house was adapted for the hospital, but this was not so. Remains of the founder's house, which must have been on a very large scale and of a grand type, have been found built into modern dwellings in the street west of the hospital. Among them was discovered the entrance to the large wool-chamber of the merchant).

The *Grammar School*, on the N. side of St. Paul's-street, was the S. aisle of the church of St. Paul. The string and corbel table of the exterior, and the pointed arches within, date from about 1150. The windows are temp. Edw. III. The school itself was founded by William Radcliffe, thrice Mayor of Stamford, who died about 1530.

St. Leonard's Priory, outside the walls (but in Lincolnshire) was founded, it is said, by Wilfrith, toward the middle of the 7th century. (Wilfrith, it may be remembered, was the founder of another small house at Oundle (see Rte. 2), where he died.) It was restored (for Benedictine monks) after the Conquest, by William of St. Carilef, Bp. of Durham, who began the rebuilding of his own vast cathedral, and who gave this priory to his Durham convent. What remains here is partly of his date. The ruins consist of the W. end of the nave of the

chapel, 5 arches of the N. arcade, and part of the clerestory above them. Two or three of the easternmost bays may be Carilef's work. "The rest, without any change of plan, receive gradually the details of a later age, until, in the W. end, some features of the next style are almost anticipated."—*G. A. Poole.* The chapel was, therefore, some time in building. The composition of the W. end is much enriched, the chief indications of advance in style being the bandings of the shafts and the foliage.

There are fragments, a few yards N.E. of King's Mill-lane, of *Sempringham Hall*, the school of the Gilbertines, founded in the 12th cent. (see *ante*). These consist of portions of Perp. arches. In St. Paul-street is the ivy-capped gateway of *Brasenose College*, destroyed by order of the corporation in 1668. The gateway, which has been removed some yards from its original position, is of the time of Edw. I. (The connexion between the name here and that of the college at Oxford is not clear; at any rate, this was the earlier. In both cases the name is probably a corruption of "brasen-hus" = brew house.) It is asserted that Roger Bacon, the Franciscan (d. 1292), lived for some time in this college, and that his famous brazen head was the "knocker" on the portal. Scattered through the town are some few domestic remains worth notice. In St. Mary-street, in a passage on the N. side, are arches with short shafts, once apparently belonging to a cellarage; and on St. Mary's Hill, nearly opposite the Town-hall, is a cellarage of the 13th cent., under a shop. At the entrance of St. Mary's passage is a good Norm. archway. Stone houses of the 17th cent. abound; the best example is in Broad-street. On Barn Hill is the house of Wolph, the alderman, who received Charles I. after his escape from Hampton Court in 1646 (see *ante*). This house was bought by Stukeley, the antiquary, vicar of All Saints from 1729 to 1747, who closed "the great gate in the town wall" through which the king had passed, "leaving only the door opening to the fields." There are many inscriptions in different parts of the building and gardens, placed there by the learned doctor. Over the entrance gateway is a record that he erected it in 1737—"Beatæ Tranquillitati;" and in 1746 he added an inscription in honour of the victory of Culloden. A physician who cured his gout is commemorated elsewhere. Stukeley founded here a "Brasenose Society," designed "to inquire into the history and antiquities of the kingdom, make discoveries in natural history, and improvements in arts and sciences generally."

Of the *town walls* the only fragment is at the end of St. Peter's-street, a few yards N. of which is a buttress tower of the time of Charles I. The *Norman Castle* stood near the S.W. corner of St. Peter's-square, where an ivied wall retains the jambs of a doorway. Below, by the mill-stream, an E. E. postern may be seen; and beyond it, a portion of the Norm. wall of the outer enclosure. The mound of the Keep—no doubt in existence when the Norm. Castle was raised—is conspicuous. In the S.E. corner of the enclosure is some fine arcading of the 13th cent. apparently a portion of a hall. The Norm. Castle is due probably to Richard de Humez, Sheriff of Rutland (1164-80). From 1206 to 1303 it was held by the Earls of Warrene.

The *Town Hall*, on St. Mary's Hill, built in 1777, contains the *corporation plate* of the aldermen and counsellors. (John, Earl of Warrene, in 1257, granted leave to the burgesses to choose an alderman, to be sworn before the lord of the manor, or before the steward. Accordingly, the chief magistrate bears the name of alderman until 1663, when

he is first styled Mayor.) There are 3 maces, one temp. Edward IV.; a second, dating from the Restoration; and a third, the largest, of silver gilt, was given in 1678 by Charles Bertie, then M.P. for the borough. A large silver punch-bowl, holding 5 gallons, was also his gift.

The *bridge*, over which we have passed more than once in our wanderings, was built in 1849. It took the place of a stone bridge which was in existence in 1149; but of which portions had often been swept away by floods, and renewed. This first bridge was 150 ft. long, and of 3 arches.

Stamford boasts of having been the birthplace of the earliest provincial paper set forth in England. The 'Stamford Mercury' was, it is said, established in 1695—a result of the freedom of the press granted by William III. (There is a copy for the year 1719 in the Leicester Museum.) It at first consisted of 4 quarto pages, and resembled the old news letters; has never ceased to appear; and has now a very great circulation throughout the Midland counties.

Stamford was one of the first English boroughs which sent *members to Parliament.* (It appears in that of 1295.) In 1869 it lost one of its members, the population being under 10,000. In 1628 Henry Grey was created *Earl of Stamford.* His descendant became Earl of Warrington in 1796, and the titles are now combined.

Among distinguished persons belonging to Stamford must be reckoned the two Jacksons—Cyril, the Dean of Christchurch, born here in 1742, and his brother William, born 1750, Bishop of Oxford, 1811–15. Robert Johnson, Archdeacon of Leicester, and founder of Oakham and Uppingham Grammar Schools, was born at Stamford, for which place his father had sat in parliament with David Cecil, grandfather of Lord Burghley. Francis Peck the antiquary was born here in 1692. (There is a notice of Burghley in his 'Desiderata Curiosa.') The Rev. Thomas Seaton, founder of the Seatonian prize at Cambridge, was also a native. General Sir Hudson Lowe, of St. Helena reputation, was born here. Robert Dale Owen served an apprenticeship to a draper at Stamford; and Daniel Lambert, the "giant," died here suddenly in 1809, aged 40. "He measured 9 ft. 4 in. round the body, and weighed 52 st. 11 lb."

Very near St. Martin's Church, at the head of the long street of St. Martin's or Stamford Baron, is an entrance to the park of *Burghley.* The house is distant from the entrance rather more than 1 m. Burghley, a house of great historical interest, the architecture of which is one of the best examples of the English renaissance, and which contains a large and important collection of *pictures*, is *open to visitors daily*, from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. (Thursdays, and the last fortnight in Lent are excepted.) *Attendants are entitled to not less than* 1*s. from each visitor.* The lower park is at all times open. The middle and upper parks are closed to the public.

Burghley, the "ley," or pasture of the great monastic house of "Burgh" (Peterborough), was the property of that Abbey at the time of the Conquest, but in the Domesday survey it appears in the holding of Geoffry of Winchester. But it soon returned to its former owners, and the manor was held under the Abbey by a family which took its name from the place, until the beginning of the 14th cent. It then passed to other holders (still under the Abbey) until, early in the 16th cent., it was bought by Richard Cecil, father of the Lord Treasurer. But there was also a monastic cell here, attached to Peterborough, and standing on part of

the ground occupied by the present house. All rights of ownership came, however, at last to Richard Cecil, and to his son. The eldest son of the Treasurer was created Earl of Exeter in 1605. (Lord Burghley's 2nd son was the 1st Earl of Salisbury.) The marquisate dates from 1801. The present (1877) is the 3rd Marquis, and is in direct descent from the great Treasurer.

The *park*, which we enter either by a side gate above St. Martin's Church, or by the principal approach a little beyond it, is 7 m. in circumference, 2½ m. long, and about 1½ m. broad. It is grandly wooded, and there is a large sheet of water; yet on the whole it wants the half-wildness and the antique forest character which delight us so greatly in the park of the other great Cecil-house at Hatfield. The avenues here are very fine and extensive, with much elm, lime, oak, and Spanish chestnut: but Burghley (owing to a difference of soil) displays no such venerable oaks as those of Hatfield. An elm avenue (the first entered from Stamford) has the trunks of its trees knotted and contorted in very singular fashion. The park-ground is varied with hollow and upland, but there is little distant view even from the *house*, which at last shows itself among the trees on the rt. As it is approached, a very fine view is obtained of the general mass, 2 fronts of which are in sight, and which, with its cupolas and tall chimneys, the spire which marks the chapel, the balustrades, and oriels glittering in the sun, is very striking and picturesque.

Lord Burghley did not begin to build here until about 1575, and the earliest date discoverable on any part of the building is 1577 (on the arched ceiling at the W. entrance). The architect was no doubt John Thorpe, whose folio volume, now in the Soanean museum, contains, among other plans and erections those (the plans only) for Burghley. Thorpe was one of the chief architects of his day; and he was the builder, for another Cecil (Sir Thomas) of the house at Wimbledon, which has entirely disappeared. Fergusson ('Hist. of Archit.') insists that Hatfield and Burghley belong to a group of buildings which time has sanctified and sanctioned, though they certainly are not beautiful, either from the details or from any grouping of the parts. This is at least doubtful; and there are portions of Burghley, which, if fairly seen and considered, must go far to modify so sweeping a statement. Some changes have been made since the first completion of the house. But its appearance has not been altered in any important respect; and the many "imbowed windows," on which Bacon dilates in his essay 'on Building,' give at once that essentially English feeling of safety and confidence which is wanting in the great Continental houses built about the same time. The principal rooms in Italian or French houses look toward the court; in England, as at Burghley and Hatfield, they open outwards. The Tuscan open-work of the parapets, and the lofty Tuscan columns, coupled by cornices and heavy architraves, which form the chimneys, indicate the extent to which a classical influence had affected the earlier Tudor work.

The house is in the form of a parallelogram, and is built round a central court. "The inside court," says Walpole, "struck me with admiration and reverence." The whole is of Barnack stone. The W. front, with its lofty square tower, projecting from the line, and having its angles surmounted by octangular turrets, capped with cupolas, was the part first finished. Massive iron gates, richly gilt, guard the approaches to this and the N. or principal front, which is divided into 3

compartments, and is unquestionably fine. On the central panel of the parapet is the date 1587. Beyond the W. front is the *Porter's Lodge* (*at which the visitor must apply for admission*), opening to a quadrangle, round which are ranged various domestic offices, and in the centre of which is a venerable horse-chestnut tree.

The interior of the house is here described in the order in which it is generally shown. The vast assemblage of *pictures* consists chiefly of examples of the later Italian school which are not of the highest interest, although they give, on a grand scale, "a view of the taste in the arts which prevailed among the English nobility from the middle of the 17th cent. till about the end of the 18th cent."—*Waagen.* Horace Walpole writes of "that venerable palace .... ornamented with a profusion of Carlo Maratti's and Luca Giordano's works." These abound; but there are also many pictures of great beauty and importance, the principal of which are here noticed. The best *portraits* (and these are of the greatest value) are placed in what is called the "Pagoda room." These are fully described. It may be added that among later English works, the house contains no less than 15 by the ingenious Angelica Kauffman.

Passing through a long corridor (where a view is obtained of the inner court), a stone staircase is reached, communicating with the apartments on the first-floor, and rising to the top of the house. The peculiar ornaments of the roof, the groinings above the landing-places, with their stone pendants, and the radiating arch over the shorter flights, should all be noticed. (Some of the ornaments resemble those on the canopy of the Treasurer's monument in St. Martin's Ch., see *ante*). The first room entered is known as the *Chapel Room.* Here are many pictures of interest, but none calling for special notice. So with those in the *Antechapel* beyond. In the *Chapel*, as an altarpiece, is placed a picture by *Paul Veronese* (but not one of his best works), of which the subject is Zebedee's wife petitioning our Lord on behalf of her sons. Remark also a 'Passage of the Israelites through the Red Sea," by *Benedetto Castiglione*, "A capital picture of the Master."—*Waagen.* On the walls are some very fine specimens of the wood-carving of *Grinling Gibbons*, who was much employed here. The chimney-piece, of various marbles, was brought from a convent near Lisbon. A seat here is called Queen Elizabeth's, and, it is said, was occupied by her on her visit to Burghley. It was also the seat of Queen Victoria when she visited Burghley in 1844. (It may here be noted that this chapel, the great hall, and the kitchen, were, it is asserted, portions of the cell, or, as it must have become at a later period, of the manor-house attached to Peterborough Abbey. It is true that Lord Burghley, in a letter dated 1585, writes of having "set his walls on the old foundation," and of having "made the rough stone walls to be square;" but the building itself affords no evidence of anything earlier than the general design of John Thorpe).

The *Billiard-room* contains some family portraits of interest. There are 7 by *Kneller;* John, 5th Earl, and his wife; Elizabeth Brownlow, wife of the 6th Earl; Edward Cecil, 4th son of the 5th Earl; William Cecil, brother of the 6th Earl; the 7th Earl when a boy; and the painter himself (interesting). Here are also the 8th Earl, by *Richardson;* two *Lelys*, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Wm. Drury, 2nd wife of the 2nd Earl; and Annabella Bennet, wife of the 6th Earl; besides a replica by him of Charles II.'s Duchess of Cleveland; 2 *Dobsons*, the 1st Duke and Duchess of Devonshire; Thomas Hobbes, the

"philosopher," d. 1679 (*unknown*); Sir Isaac Newton, by *Lewis Crosse* (a bust, holding an open book resting on a globe); and (especially interesting) *Verrio*, the painter, by himself. He was employed here for 12 years in painting ceilings, &c.; and his gods "sprawl" in company with those of Laguerre on the walls and ceilings of many of the chief apartments, covering, in Walpole's words, "those public surfaces on which the eye never rests long enough to criticise, and where one should be sorry to place the works of a better master." Over the chimney-piece is *Sir Thomas Lawrence's* picture of Henry Cecil, 10th Earl and 1st Marquis, his wife and daughter. He is full-length, standing near a pillar; his wife is seated beside him, and holding her child. This is the Countess (she was the Earl's 2nd wife, and died in 1797. The Marquisate dates from 1801, and her husband died in 1804, aged 50) who is the subject of Tennyson's poem. Her husband (then only his uncle's heir), after the loss of his first wife, lived for some time in a remote part of Shropshire, calling himself Mr. Jones. He lodged for some time in the house of a farmer named Hoggins, whose young daughter he married, with her parents' consent; and after the death of his uncle, and his consequent accession to the Earldom, he brought her to Burghley, but without disclosing his rank.

> "And they speak in gentle murmur,
> When they answer to his call,
> While he treads with footsteps firmer,
> Leading her from hall to hall.
> And while now she wonders blindly,
> Nor the meaning can divine;
> Proudly turns he round and kindly,
> 'All of this is mine and thine.'"

The Countess died young; but it does not appear that "the burden of an honour unto which she was not born" weighed too heavily on her; and the poet's conclusion is at least uncertain.

The Old *Ball-room*, or second *Billiard-room*, has the walls and ceiling painted by *Laguerre*, d. 1721. The effect is gloomy, with hardly the richness of tapestry. The subjects on the walls are Scipio, Cannæ, Anthony and Cleopatra at a banquet, and their deaths. The ceiling "purports to be a representation of the planetary system." In the *Brown Drawing-room* observe the carving by *Gibbons* over the chimney-piece; birds, fruit, and flowers. Among the *pictures* here, the most important are—a curious 'Life of St. Augustin,' ascribed to *Hugo Van der Goes* (circ. 1480). Various events are represented: that in the centre being the installation by St. Ambrose, of Augustin, as Abp. of Africa; a man's head by *Rembrandt*; and a landscape by *Ruysdael*. Here are also a Virgin and Child, ascribed to *Albert Durer*, and a Venus and Cupid given to *Michael Angelo*. Among various ornaments in this room is a china dish, with a view of Burghley upon it, dated 1745. The *Black and Yellow bed-chamber* contains an ancient state-bed, and is hung with tapestry. Here is more of *Gibbons'* carving; and in this, and the adjoining *dressing-room* are *pictures*, including 2 *Guercinos* (Virgin and Child, and a Venus and Cupid within a garland of flowers—the flowers by *Maria da Fiori*), worth notice. *Queen Elizabeth's bedroom* (19 ft. by 18 ft.), retains, it is said, the furniture and hangings with which it was fitted on the occasion of the queen's visit (but see *post*. It is almost certain that Elizabeth was never at Burghley. The furniture may have been that arranged for her in Lord Burghley's house at Stamford). The hangings of the bed and the chair coverings are of dark-green velvet and gold. The tapestry was certainly never seen by Elizabeth, since it was made for the 5th Earl, probably at Mortlake. The subjects are—the 'Story of Actæon,' 'Bacchus and Ariadne,' and 'Acis

and Galatea.' The best *picture* is the 'Agony in the Garden,' by *Bassano.*

The next, or *Pagoda-room* (so called from a model which is placed in it), is *one of the most interesting in the house,* from the series of *portraits* which it contains. They may be taken as they are numbered, though this of course is not in historical succession:—David Garrick, *Dance* (half length, seated; hand resting on back of chair). Rachel, Lady Russell, *Vandyck;* seated, blue dress with roses in her lap. (The same treatment is seen in Vandyck's 'Lady Northumberland' at Hatfield.) This is the well-known wife of Wm. Lord Russell. She was daughter of Thos. Wriothesley, 4th E. of Southampton. Brownlow, 2nd Marquis of Exeter, *Sir M. A. Shee.* Ferdinand, Duke of Alva, ascribed to *P. Veronese.* In armour, black-and-gold, and black-and-gold surcoat; hat with feather. The expression is rather sad than fierce. Angelica Kauffman, *Sir N. Dance.* Q. Henrietta Maria (half-length), *Vandyck.* Charles I. (half-length), *Stone.* Cromwell, E. of Essex (assigned to *Holbein*). Head of a lady, ascribed to *Titian.* Mrs. Pelham, *Romney. Annibale Caracci,* by himself. Charles II., his brother and sisters, when children, *Stone* (a copy from the Vandyck at Windsor). *Jan Van Eyck* (?) by himself. Lady Pembroke (daughter of George Villiers, first D. of Buckingham), *Ashfield.* Martin Luther; head with monogram and date; on panel, 20 in. by 15; *Lucas Cranach.* Eliz. Countess of Exeter, *Dobson.* O. Cromwell, *Walker.* Hen. VIII., *Holbein.* In the king's hand is a scroll with the words "Marc. 16. Ite in mūdum universū et predicate evangelium omni creaturæ." Lady Warwick, *Ashfield.* The Lord Treasurer Burghley, *Mark Garrard,* ¾ size, white beard, black cap, high ruff, crimson dress, mantle, and collar K.G., Treasurer's staff. This picture probably afforded the details for the effigy on the tomb in St. Martin's Church. Q. Elizabeth, *Mark Garrard,* age about 65; yellow wig; high jewelled headdress; wide, starched and wired ruff, at the side of which 2 small pink roses are set. Princess Mary Tudor, afterwards Queen, *Holbein,* ¾ miniature; dated at back, 1544. In her hands she holds a heart-shaped locket. Edw. VI., *Holbein,* at age of 7 or 8 (very striking). Lady Anne Cecil, *Vandyck* (daughter of 2nd E. of Salisbury). Thomas, 1st of Exeter, *Cornelius Janssen;* half-length, high black hat and black dress, ribbon and badge K.G. (panel). This was the eldest son of the great Lord Burghley by his first wife, daughter of Sir John Cheke; born 1542, d. Feb. 7, 1621–22. He was created E. of Exeter by Jas. I., May 4, 1605; his younger half-brother having been created E. of Salisbury on the morning of the same day. Isabella, daughter of Philip II. of Spain, *Chr. Massini.* Robert Devereux, E. of Essex, Elizabeth's well-known favourite, *Zuccaro* (hair black, beard brown; he wears a ruff over a turned-down collar). Wm. Cavendish, D. of Newcastle, the great Royalist, *Vandyck* (very fine). Lady Georgiana Cecil, daughter of first E. of Exeter, *C. Janssen.* Princess (afterwards Q.) Eliz., *Holbein.* Charles IX. of France, *unknown.* Jane Cecil, daughter and heiress of Wm. Heckington of Bourn, and mother of the Lord Treasurer, *unknown.* Launcelot Brown, *Dance* ("Capability" Brown, the well-known landscape gardener, b. 1715, d. 1773. He made alterations in the park and grounds here). E. of Southampton, *Wm. Wissing* (this earl was the father of Rachel, Lady Russell). A Spanish priest, assigned to *Velasquez.* Countess of Desmond (so called—it is probably Rembrandt's mother), *Rembrandt.* Portrait of a boy, *Velasquez.* Lady Dorothy Nevill,

Janssen (she was 1st wife of the 1st Earl).

In the *Purple-satin bedroom*, the tapestry hangings were made for the 5th E. of Exeter. A picture of 'Susanna and the Elders' by *Caravaggio*, "displays all his peculiar energy."—*Waagen.* In the *dressing-room* are many *pictures;* of which a Virgin and Child on copper, by *G. B. Castiglione* (given by Pope Clement XVI. to the 9th Earl). is "far more noble and tender than most of the pictures by this master."—*Waagen.* A Holy Family, by *Passeri;* a St. Hubert, given to *Albert Durer;* a small half-length called 'William Tell,' by *Rembrandt;* and a "Susanna," by *Sir Peter Lely* ("the best of his historical pictures I have seen," says *Waagen*), should be noticed.

We pass to the S. side of the house, and into the so-called "George Rooms"—prepared for George IV., but not occupied by him. They were used by the Queen and Prince Albert in 1844. The *State bedroom* has fine carvings by *Gibbons* over the doors; and the ceiling, painted by *Verrio*, displays 'Morning Chasing away Night,' and sundry other mythological representations which the visitor will hardly care to make out. Among the *pictures* remark: Angels appearing to the infant Christ with emblems of the Passion, *N. Poussin*, careful and fine; a boy with a pigeon, *Guido;* Galatea, *Albano*, "very graceful, and of warm, clear colouring."—*Waagen.* A 'Finding of Moses,' here ascribed to Titian, but probably by *Pordenone*, "rich and admirable." The Salutation, signed *Denis Calvart.* A panel of Christ in the Temple with the Doctors, by *L. Vanuden.* A small closet opening from this room, called the *Jewel Closet*, contains the famous *Carlo Dolce* (b. 1616, d. 1686) of 'Our Lord blessing the bread and the cup.' The composition is well known. There is a replica in the Museum at Dresden and another at Corsham. Those who care for the works of Carlo Dolce will no doubt admire this picture, which is his masterpiece. It was brought from Italy by the 5th Earl. (Waagen prefers the Dresden example.) Here are also a 'Head of the Baptist,' and 'The Child Jesus with flowers' (good), also by *C. Dolce.* In a glass case are sundry curiosities—a triangular crystal set with garnets, called Q. Elizabeth's salt-cellar; a gold spoon for the oil used at her coronation; her watch and tablet; the pocket-handkerchief of William III.; a small head of the Lord Treasurer, fixed to the back of an antique intaglio of Caracalla; and a head of Eliz. appendant. These are cut in onyx by *Valerio Belli;* the rosary of Q. Mary of Scotland; a ring with some of Hen. VIII.'s hair; and a variety of trinkets of much value. The *2nd State bedroom* contains a very magnificent bed, placed here before Q. Victoria's visit. The walls are hung with tapestry made for the 5th Earl, with views of Burghley and Wothorpe in the borderings. The ceiling is by *Verrio*, and has a great display of his usual gods and goddesses. The *dressing-room* attached has another Verrio ceiling, with the 'Marriage of Cupid and Psyche.' Among the *pictures* an Adoration of the Shepherds, by *Floris*, and 2 flower-pieces by *Riccio*, deserve notice. The *Great Drawing-room* has on the ceiling, by *Verrio*, the Marriage of Jupiter and Juno. Here are two *Claudes* (of his middle period); two *Guidos;* a Holy Family, by *Andrea del Sarto;* a Holy Family ascribed to *Palma Vecchio;* a "noble Venetian," by *Sofonisba Anguisciola*, the lady so highly praised by Vasari (see *Althorp*, Rte. 7, where is the best picture of hers in England); two *Guercinos;* our Lord giving the keys to St. Peter, *G. Bellini* ("a finished work of his later period"—*Waagen*); and a curious picture, given to *Cimabue*, and representing

the Countess Matilda, the great supporter of Gregory VII. She is in a long red robe, with a white rose in one hand. The picture is inscribed 'La gran Contessa Matilda.' Observe, also, 2 pictures by *Giacomo Bassano*, 'Gathering Manna,' and the 'Prodigal's Return,' both very good. In this room are 2 very fine vases of old Delft. The next, or *Breakfast-room*, has its ceiling and walls covered with *Verrio's* mythologies—and a figure on the E. side, in the group of Vulcan and the Cyclops, is said to represent the painter. The room contains a large collection of *china*, of various places and periods. A cabinet of ebony and tortoise-shell has the front and interior painted by *Rubens* and his pupils.

The *Great Staircase*, which is now reached, has on the ceiling *Verrio's* most important work here, —a representation of the infernal regions. The Burghley tradition runs that Verrio was very particular about his dinner; and that the cook was not always sufficiently careful. On one occasion he was so enraged by the cook's neglect that he placed the portrait of the offender among the sufferers in his Inferno—where it still remains. There were precedents for such a proceeding; witness the story of a Venetian artist, who complained to the Pope that he had been treated by one of his brethren in a similar fashion. The Pope observed that if it had been only Purgatory, something might perhaps have been done; but that he had no control beyond that region. This ceiling was retouched by a far greater artist than Verrio—*Stothard*—who painted the walls of the staircase in the course of 3 summers, beginning in 1799. The subjects are War, Intemperance (Cleopatra is dissolving the pearl), and the descent of Orpheus to the Infernal Regions. The paintings are on a very large scale, with figures 8 ft. high, and display great power and brilliancy of colour. But important as they are, Stothard is not here at his best, and the delicacy and refinement of his later work are hardly indicated. On the landing is a 'Boy and Dolphin,' by *Nollekens*, copied from an antique formerly in the Barbarini Palace at Rome.

The *Great Hall* is 68 ft. by 30, and 66 ft. in height. The open roof is its best feature. At the daised end is a lofty oriel window with the arms of Cecil and various quarterings. On the chimney-piece are the arms as borne by Lord Burghley. There is a music gallery at the N. end. The best pictures here are: Sir Anthony Brown, 1st Lord Montague, and his second wife; full-lengths, by (or after) *Lucas de Heere;* the great and eccentric E. of Peterborough, *J. B. Vanloo;* George I., George II., Q. Caroline, *Michael Dahl;* and the late Prince Consort, a copy from *Winterhalter*. There are pictures in the apartments not shown to visitors; among which is an early *Titian* of great beauty. The subject is the Virgin, with the Infant Christ at full length in her lap. There is a landscape background. (See *Crowe* and *Caval.*, 'Life of Titian,' i. p. 111.)

Burghley has of course had its due allowance of royal visitors, and its full historical distinction. In spite of the general tradition, however, it is tolerably certain that Elizabeth was never in the present house. According to Lord Burghley's diary, the queen was "at my house at Stamford," Aug. 5, 1566; but this was a house in the town, as we are expressly told; and a fever in the house (then the old house) at Burghley prevented Eliz. from going there. There is no other record of a visit to this place or neighbourhood. It was after a stay at Theobalds that the Queen made her well-known speech to her old minister, saying that "his head and her purse could

do anything;" and it was at Theobalds that the great "entertainments" of Elizabeth by Burghley took place, which "cost him 2000*l.* or 3000*l.* each time." James I. was received at Burghley with great magnificence, April 23, 1603, on his way from Scotland to London, "the house seeming so rich as if it had been furnished at the charge of an emperor." Bp. Chaderton of Lincoln preached on the 24th (Easter day); and then "all the offices of the house were set open, that every man might have free access to buttery, pantries, kitchen, to eat and drink in at their pleasure." It does not appear that Charles I. visited Burghley, although he more than once passed through, and slept in, Stamford. Cromwell, in 1643, marched to Stamford from Peterborough, and took possession of the town; "whereupon," says Carlyle, "the Cavaliers from Newark and Belvoir Castle came hovering about him; he drove them into Burghley House, and laid siege to the same; at three in the morning he battered it with all his shot, and stormed it at last." Much harm, however, was not done; and the Burghley tradition bears that the portrait of Cromwell by Walker now in the house was afterwards sent by the Protector as a present to Lady Exeter. William III., who in 1695 (when he visited Althorp, see Rte. 7) "lodged in Dr. Colby's house at Stamford," twice visited Burghley, and, it is asserted, remarked that "the house was too large for a subject." Matthew Prior was at this time under the patronage of the E. of Exeter, and was much at Burghley; to which place, writes Walpole, "he has added celebrity by his pleasing verses." These will be found in his 'Works.' There are lines "On the Countess of Exeter playing on a lute;" and on "Jordain's picture of Seneca dying in a bath." This "Giordano" is not now at Burghley.

Burghley is wonderfully rich in massive silver plate, including enormous wine-coolers, and some large silver-gilt dishes received by the earls and marquises as Hereditary Grand Almoners at the Coronation of the British Sovereign.

The gardens are at some distance from the house, and although excellent, contain nothing which calls for especial notice. "Capability Brown" was employed here about 1775, and made much alteration in the grounds. The lake on the S. side of the house, covering about 32 acres, was formed by him. A stone bridge across it leads to the middle and upper parks, which are not open to the public.

At *Wothorpe*, 1 m. S.W. of Stamford, and commanding a good view of the town, are the ivy-covered ruins of a house built about 1600 by Thomas Cecil, afterwards 1st E. of Exeter, as he said, "to retire out of the dust while his great house at Burghley was a-sweeping." Charles Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, lived in it for a short time. It was entirely dismantled in 1759.

ROUTE 4.

NORTHAMPTON TO RUGBY.

London and North-Western Railway.

From Northampton to Blisworth, this rte. is described in Rte. 1. There are many trains daily from Bridge-street Stat., Northampton, to Blisworth.

From Blisworth this rte. follows the main North-Western line between London and Birmingham. (The portion from London to Blisworth is described in *Hdbk. for Herts*, Rte. 1, and in the present Hdbk., Rte. 1.) The smaller stations on this line beyond Blisworth are (1876) inconvenient and comfortless.

There is little which calls for notice between Blisworth and the first stat., Weedon. On the l., 1½ m. from Blisworth stat., is the village and church of *Gayton*. The *Ch.* deserves attention. It is E. Eng. and Dec., with some interesting monuments. It has been restored, and there is much modern stained glass. The font is late Norm. with interlaced arches and a cable moulding. Under a Dec. canopy, on the N. side of the chancel, is the effigy (in oak) of (possibly) Sir Philip de Gayton, died 1316. The effigy is cross-legged; and Sir Philip may have accompanied Edward I. on his Crusade. His son, Sir Theobald, survived him but a few days, and was the last of this family. Opposite this monument is a plain altar-tomb of Purbeck, which cannot be appropriated. In the north chapel is the tomb, with effigy, of Scholastica, daughter of Sir Philip de Gayton (she became coheiress with her sister Juliana, burnt for murder of her husband), and wife of Godfrey de Meaux. She died in 1354. The dress is a good example, and the figure resembles those of Queen Eleanor on the Northampton Cross, although it must be considerably later. On a bracket above is a small figure found in the north wall, which is no doubt that of Mabel, daughter of Thomas de Gayton. Opposite is the altar-tomb, with effigies, of Francis Tanfield (d. 1558), and Bridget, his wife (d. 1583). He is bare-headed, and in armour. The Tanfields were lords of the manor from the latter part of the 15th centy. to 1607. There is also in the ch. a monument for the Lockwoods, one of whom was sheriff of Northamptonshire in 1745. The village stands on high ground, commanding wide views. Besides the ch. there is nothing to be noticed but a portion of the manor-house, at the north entrance of the village. This may be Elizabethan. The manner in which the projection which carries the windows, itself gabled, is placed within the main gables of the house, is picturesque and unusual.

The *Ch.* of *Bugbrooke*, seen rt. from the rly., was at first E. Eng. (piers and arches of nave), but received much alteration (aisle windows, tower, and spire) in the Dec. period. Clerestory and E. window are Perp., and a rich Perp. roodscreen remains. The rectory was given by William Earl of Mortain, temp. Hen. I., to the Norman Abbey of Grestein. The rly. soon reaches

Weedon Stat. (Here a large new hotel is (1876) in course of building, *The Globe*, in the village, rt. of the rly., is tolerably comfortable.) The barracks are on the S. of the stat. Weedon is a good centre from which to visit one or two churches in the neighbourhood of considerable interest. It is the nearest stat. (4 m.) to Daventry, to and from which place an omnibus runs four times daily. Pop. of parish in 1871, 1861, including 816 persons in the barracks.

Weedon Bec, so called from the famous convent of Bec in Normandy, to which the manor anciently belonged, or *Weedon-on-the-Street*, from its position on the line of the Watling Street, is best known from the military depôt and barracks established here in 1803 (after the declaration of war with the French Republic) for the Ordnance Department. The government possesses an estate at Weedon of about 125 acres. There are barracks for 500 men and

200 horses; armoury, storehouses, and magazines, capable of containing 800,000 stand of small arms, besides field ordnance and ammunition,—a hospital and workshops. The barracks stand high above the river Nen, which here winds through broad, marshy meadows, much overflowed in the winter. On either side of the river the hills rise into a much broken country; and we are here on the border of the most picturesque part of Northamptonshire. The depôt was first established here, nearly in the centre of England, as far from the sea as possible, at a time when an invasion from France was not unexpected. The position is open and healthy, and its many advantages have always been appreciated. The barracks are conspicuous in all distant views across the country.

The village of Weedon—"a praty thorough fare," says Leland, "sette on a playne ground, and much celebrated by cariars, bycause it stondeth hard by the famose way there communely caullid of the people Watheling Street"—is small and indifferent, consisting mainly of one long street, which rises toward the rly. stat. There was here a palace or villa much favoured by the Mercian kings, which, toward the end of the 7th centy., was converted by Etheldred of Mercia into a religious house. Etheldred was the uncle of Werburgh, daughter of Wulfere king of Mercia and of Ermenilde; whose mother, Sexburgh, was the daughter of Anna, king of the East Anglians. Ermenilde and Werburgh both took the veil in the convent at Ely, over which Etheldrythe or Etheldreda, sister of Sexburgh, was then presiding. St. Werburgh was afterwards chosen as abbess, or, at least, directress, of the four monasteries of Trentham and Hanbury in Staffordshire, Repton in Derbyshire, and this of Weedon. Here she spent much of her time; and it was here that she performed the famous miracle by which she drove from the corn-fields all the wild geese which frequented them. Thus Drayton ('Polyolbion') tells how the river Nen—

> "Falleth in her way with Weedon, where, 'tis said,
> St. Werburgh, princely born, a most religious maid,
> From these peculiar fields, by prayer, the wild-fowl drove."

Alnoth, her steward or bailiff, who became himself a saint (see Stowe, *post*), caused all the geese to assemble within the grange. Werburgh ordered them to take flight, and never more to appear at Weedon. They obeyed; but kept hovering round until one of their companions, who had been killed and eaten, was restored to them safe and sound. "The vulgar superstition," according to Bridges, "now observes that no wild geese are ever seen to settle and graze in Weedon Field." St. Werburgh was buried at Hanbury, but her relics were afterwards, for fear of the Northmen, carried within the walls of Chester, where she became the great patroness of the monastery, the ch. of which is now the cathedral. At Weedon there was a chapel dedicated to St. Werburgh on the S. side of the ch.-yard. The *Ch.* of Weedon is of small importance. All is modern except the tower, the lower part of which is Norm., the upper Trans. Some fragments of grotesque sculpture from the former building are placed at the end of the S. aisle. The Watling Street crossed the Nen near the ch.

The churches of Stowe, Flore, and Nether Heyford, are within a walk from Weedon. All three are interesting, but that of Stowe should on no account be missed by the antiquary. (*Everdon* ch., 4 m. S. W., has a good late Dec. portal, much enriched.)

(*a.*) *Stowe*, usually known as Stowe-nine-Churches, for some reason which

has not been clearly explained, although the fact that according to the inquisition after the death of Catherine Dudley, temp. Hen. VII., there were nine advowsons appendant to the manor, may throw some light on the matter—stands on high ground about 2 m. from Weedon Stat. The local tradition asserts that attempts were made to build the ch. on nine different sites. But the stones were always displaced at night, and a man set to watch declared that it was done by "summet bigger nor a hog." The ninth choice was fortunate. The Towcester road is followed as far as a turning, rt., at the top of the hill; the by-road then entered leads to the ch. This road passes along very high ground, and the views from it, N. and E., are wide and fine. Great Brington Rte. 7) on its hill, is very conspicuous, and Northampton in the distance beyond it. The country here shows as a richly-wooded district, and is pleasant and attractive. Stowe itself, of which the name sufficiently indicates the antiquity, is placed a little to the W. of Watling Street —the course of which is marked by many such early foundations. At the time of the Domesday survey the manor belonged to Gilbert of Gaunt, nephew of the Conqueror. The fee continued in the hands of his descendants until 1307; but the manor had been granted to the family of Armenters before the close of the 12th century. It passed circa 1300 to Alice, half-sister and heiress of John de Armenters, and wife of Sir Gerard de Lisle, and afterwards of Lord Segrave. From the Lisles the manor passed by marriage to Lord Berkeley, temp. Ed. III., whose daughter and heiress was the first wife of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, by whom she had three daughters, coheiresses. Stowe fell to the lot of the younger sister, wife of George Neville, Lord Latimer of Corby. Two Lord Latimers succeeded; and Stowe then passed by marriage to the family of Danvers. So it came to the Whartons; and in 1716 the three manors of Stowe Magna, Parva, and Nine-Churches were sold to the executors of Dr. Thomas Turner, late President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in trust for the "Governors of the Charity for the relief of Widows and Orphans of the Clergy" (Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy, established 1678). The Charity still holds them. This sketch will better explain the monuments and memorials in the church.

The position of Stowe ch. (ded. to St. Michael) is one of much quiet beauty. It stands on a lofty mound, sloping toward a green hollow, where are many fine trees. Beyond are low hills and woods, between which are seen the roofs of scattered farmhouses. The ch. has been restored, and the chancel rebuilt (1860); but its great interest has been hardly lessened. It consists of western tower, nave, N. and S. aisles, chancel, and aisles ranging with it eastward, and opening by 2 bays N. and S. The tower is probably older than the Conquest, though it has none of the remarkable work which distinguishes Brixworth or the earlier churches (Barton, Barnack, Wittering) on the eastern side of the county. There is, however, long-and-short work visible *outside* the tower. It is lofty and very massive, without buttresses, and has been bound with iron for safety. Half-way up, on the W. side, is a window splayed externally. (The uppermost part of the tower is an addition.) *Within*, a tall, narrow, round-headed portal opens to the nave. A shaft (once continuous)? rises on either side of the portal to a plain, square abacus, from which is carried a narrow projecting rib, enclosing a sort of tympanum above the doorway. A doorway at the end of the N. aisle may be of the same date

as the tower. That a very early ch. existed here is shown by the remains of sculptured crosses, some of which have plait-work, found during the restoration, and now placed in the N. aisle. The main arcade is early Dec., and the chancel is of similar character. The *monuments* alone will repay the visitor. On the N. side of the chancel is the very fine effigy of a knight, temp. Hen. III. He is in chain-mail, with a long, open cyclas or surcoat, and shield on l. arm. The legs are crossed. The rt. hand is on the breast. The effigy is in Purbeck marble. It has been little injured (thanks to the hardness of the stone); and the sculpture and design are unusually good. The tomb on which it is placed bears the shield of Lisle. It is probably that of Sir Gerard de l'Isle. Opposite, on the S. side, is a monument, which Pennant has styled "the most elegant tomb that this or any other kingdom can boast of." It is justly celebrated; but many will much prefer the severer dignity of the Armenter effigy. This monument is for Elizabeth, fourth daughter and coheiress of John, Lord Latimer, and wife successively of Sir John Danvers and Sir Edmund Carey. It is the work of the sculptor *Nicholas Stone*—called "Master Mason" to James I. and Charles I. (born 1586, died 1647). His pocket-books were in the hands of Vertue, the engraver, and the following entry occurs in one of them;—"The 16th of March, 1617, I undertoke to mak a tombe for my Lady, mother to my Lord D'avers, which was all of whit marbell and touch, and I set it up at Stow of the Nine Chirches, in Northampton, some 2 year after, one allter tomb for the wich I had 220 li." (Touch, or *pierre de touche*, was the name given to any black stone used for the touching and trying of gold. Statuaries bestowed it on all the black marbles because they were sometimes used for that purpose.) The monument was made and set up 10 years before the death of the "Lady Carey"—who was buried here in 1630 (aged 84). The effigy is in white marble, and the lady is represented as sleeping, her rt. hand laid on the breast, her l. clasping the ermine-lined robe. The dress is flowing, the stomacher and the pillow on which the head rests richly embroidered. A kerchief is folded round the head. At her feet is a griffin. The slab on which the effigy rests is of "touch," as are the panels on the sides of the tomb. These panels bear inscriptions on white marble, and there are shields of arms between them. The sculptor has quite thrown off the restraint of the earlier models, but it is worth notice that the position of the hands is nearly the same in the two effigies, of such very different periods, here placed opposite one another. This curious resemblance can only be accidental.

Against the N. wall of the N. aisle is the elaborate monument of Dr. Thomas Turner, President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he was buried in 1714. This is by *Stayner*. The Dr. appears "standing on a terrestrial globe in his Master of Arts gown," attended by Religion, who stands on a celestial globe, and holds a Cross in her l. hand, and in her right a small temple with a Greek inscription. The Dr. himself holds a book (the Bible) with the words (in the original) "Guard that which is committed to thy trust" (1 Tim. vi. 20). A radiated eye in clouds is seen above, and there are long inscriptions recording the learning and excellence of Thomas Turner. (For his connection with Stowe, see *ante*.) He was brother of the nonjuror, Francis Turner, Bishop of Ely, but, although he also was a nonjuror, he retained all his preferments. In 1702, the last year allowed for taking the oaths to William and Mary, he left London, July 28th, and went to Oxford, with a full resolution to sacrifice

everything on the 1st of August, the last possible day. He made, however, no resignation, considering that his refusal to take the oaths would amount to deprivation. "Whether he was forgotten, or whether the omission was winked at, does not appear; but he retained all his benefices to his dying day."

In this ch. were preserved the relics of St. Alnoth, "bailiff" of St. Werburgh at Weedon. After her death he lived here as a hermit, and was at last killed by robbers. The Manor House, now a farm, was on the S. side of the ch.-yard. In the village are one or two houses with small projecting oriels. They are, perhaps, Elizabethan.

(*b.*) The *Ch.* of *Floore* (in Domesday *Flora*, compare the Northern *Fleurs*. The word seems Teutonic, and may signify a level tract), 1 m. from Weedon Stat., adjoins the road to Northampton. It is mainly E. Eng., with an arcade of clustered attached shafts. Two of the caps on the N. side are enriched with foliage. The western tower is open to the nave, and also to the N. and S. aisles. Its side arches have no caps, or imposts, the moulding running continuously from the ground. The tower itself, and these arches, are Dec. The font is a plain barrel, raised on a modern base. The chancel, E. Eng., was restored in 1867. In the S. wall are a double-arched piscina and a sedile. In the N. wall is a singular low recess, almost close to the ground, perhaps designed for the Easter sepulchre. The windows are Dec. and Perp., and a tolerably good Perp. chancel-screen remains, with a corbelled staircase projecting on the N. side, between the chancel and the chancel-arch. (Compare the screen at Ashby St. Ledgers, *post.*) In the chancel is a small *brass* for Henry Michell (1410) and wife. He is in armour, the long sword (two-handed?) hanging in front, straight between his feet. His hands are clasped above. There is also a *brass* for Thomas Knaresburght (1498) and wife. The chancel-roof is modern. The S. door is E. Eng. with dog-tooth. The tower (late Dec.) is very massive, with buttresses set angularly. The ch. belonged, until the Dissolution, to Merton Priory, in Surrey. Adjoining the ch. is *Floore House* (Major Fairfax Cartwright). Floore Lake, on the N. side of the ch.-yard, is subject to much flooding, but is called "one of the finest pieces of old pasture in the county."

1½ m. S.E. of Floore is *Nether Heyford*, where the ch. is not so interesting. It is mainly E. Eng., but has Dec. and Perp. additions. The chancel is Dec., and on the S. door is an original iron cross, with a ring of cable-form depending from the centre. At the E. end of the S. aisle is the mural monument (coloured) of Francis Morgan, made Justice of the King's Bench, 1558, in which year he died. There are many inscriptions. This is *not* the Judge Morgan who pronounced sentence of death on Lady Jane Grey, "soon after which he is said to have gone mad, crying out in his fits, 'Take away this Lady Jane from me;' and in the distraction he ended his life." That was Sir Richard Morgan, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. Bridges confounded the two. Here is also an altar-tomb, with *brasses*, for Sir Walter Mauntell (died 1467) and his wife. His armour is a good example. Nether Heyford is about 1½ m. from the Watling Street. An important Roman pavement and other remains were found here in 1699 at a place called Horestone Meadows. They are described by Morton ('Nat. Hist. of Northants'), and seem to have belonged to a considerable villa. The tesseræ of the pavement, which filled two carts, were used toward the end of the

last centy. for repairing the roads—a fate which has befallen many a finer relic. John Preston, a very eminent Puritan divine, and a popular teacher, called by Fuller "the greatest pupil-monger in England in man's memory," was born at Heyford in 1587. He died at Fawsley in 1628.

From Weedon Stat. an omnibus runs 4 times daily to *Daventry* (4 m.); from which town some places of interest may be visited.

About 1 m. from Weedon, rt. of the road, is the ch. of *Dodford*, containing some monuments worth notice. The place is named from a ford across a feeder of the Nen—whether also, as Fuller suggests, "from *Dods*, water-weeds, commonly called by children cat's-tails, growing thereabouts"—may be left uncertain. Dodford formed a portion of the manor or barony of Keynes, which ranged over much of this part of Northamptonshire. It continued in the house of Keynes (or Cahaignes) from the Conquest to Edward III., and then descended by marriage to Ayotes, Cressys, and others. The ch. is E. Eng. (north aisle) and Dec. The chancel was rebuilt in 1850. The monuments to be noticed here are in the N. chapel. On the S. side is the effigy of Sir William Keynes (died 1344), whose burial here is recorded. The mail armour which he wears is banded—that is, the rings are set edgeways, each row in succession lying alternately l. and rt. The interstice between each row was apparently designed to render the whole more flexible. Examples of this armour are extremely rare. The shield bears the arms of Keynes. The legs are crossed. Under an arched recess in the N. wall are 2 altar-tombs, one beyond the other. On the inner tomb is the shattered wooden effigy of a lady, wearing veil and wimple. This probably represents Hawise (living 1329), mother of the last Sir Robert de Keynes. The outer tomb is probably that of her great grand-daughter Wentiliana, who died in 1376. The effigy is in stone. There is no wimple, and the veil is confined by a fillet. The front of the tomb is divided by panels into compartments, containing small figures of "weepers." There are no arms or inscriptions. On the S. side (E. end) is a fine altar-tomb of alabaster for Sir John Cressy, died 1444, at Tove, in Lorraine. He had been captain of Lisieux, Orbes, and Pontiesque in Normandy, and one of the King's (Henry VI.) council in France. He is bare-headed, in a very rich suit of plate-armour, with collar of SS. On the hilt of his sword are the letters I.H.S. There are small headless figures, and angels holding shields, on the sides of the tomb. There are many monuments of later date for Wyrleys, Bensons, and others, lords of the manor; besides *brasses* for William Wylde (died 1422), and wife; and John Cressy (died 1414), and wife—both good examples. It may be noticed that a portion of the manor belonged at one time to the Colleys, one of whom married Caius Gabriel Cibber, of London, "sculptor," and thus became the mother of Colley Cibber, George II.'s poet laureate.

[A branch road l. leads to the village of *Newnham*, 3¼ m. from Weedon Stat. The village lies on the S. side of a range of low hills adjoining, l., the road to Daventry. The country here is pleasantly broken, and the village green of Newnham is picturesque with fine elm-trees. The *Ch.* (a chapelry attached to Badby, see *post*) stands on a hillock, whence the ground slopes steeply away E. towards a small stream. The main arcade is E. Eng. (N. side) and early Dec. (S.). On the N. side is a transitional portal,

now enclosed in the vestry. The chancel is Dec., with good windows, the lower part of one on the S. side being formed into a sedile in an unusual manner. The W. tower, with a low spire, is Perp., and stands on 3 open arches, so that the lower story forms a porch. A groined niche over the western arch contained a figure of the Virgin, to whom the ch. is dedicated. A niche for the sacring bell remains at the eastern gable of the nave roof.

Thomas Randolph, poet and dramatist, one of the "sons" of Ben Jonson, and one of those who met at the "Mermaid," was born here in 1605. He died in 1635.]

The long ridge of Borough Hill, with its entrenchments, rises rt. of the road, just before entering.

Daventry, generally called *Daintry. Hotels:* Peacock (best); Wheatsheaf. The pop. of the parish of Daventry in 1871 was 4051. The etymology of Daventry is quite uncertain, and that which has been proposed—"Dwy Avon tre" = the "town of the two Avons," from the position of Borough Hill between two branches of the Nen (called also Avon) is hardly tenable; since the British "tre" never occurs as a suffix. The long, straggling town is of considerable antiquity, but contains at present absolutely nothing to interest the stranger. The ch. was rebuilt in 1752, "in the Grecian or Doric style," and need not be visited. There was a Cluniac priory here, founded about 1090 by Hugh de Leycestre, sometimes called "Hugo Vicecomes," although he was not apparently the sheriff of Northamptonshire. It was one of those dissolved by Cardinal Wolsey, for the sake of applying their revenues to the support of his new Colleges at Ipswich and Oxford. The last fragments of its buildings were taken down in 1824, and the present gaol was erected on the site, which is near the W. end of the ch. Daventry is said to have received its first charter from King John; but this is only traditional; and the earliest existing charter of the borough was granted by Elizabeth. There is no doubt, however, that a town existed here from a very early period, although there is no evidence that it was in any way connected with the Roman and Brito-Roman foundations on and below Borough Hill. During the Civil War, Daventry and its neighbourhood were the scenes of frequent military operations. On the 16th of Feb., 1644-5, Sir William and Sir Charles Compton, brothers of the Earl of Northampton, routed near this place 400 of the Parliamentary horse from Northampton. On the 31st of May following, Charles I., having taken Leicester by storm, marched towards Oxford, which was then besieged, and (June 7th) reached Daventry, where he fixed his headquarters, and slept at the Wheatsheaf six nights. His army consisted of about 10,000 men; of whom the infantry were stationed in Daventry field (then unenclosed), the cavalry at Staverton and the adjacent villages. On the 12th of June a skirmishing party of Fairfax's horse took some prisoners; and an alarm being given to the King, who was hunting a buck at Fawsley, within 2 miles of Daventry, the whole army encamped on Borough Hill, and stood under arms all night. Thence they retreated northward. (For a full detail of these movements, which immediately preceded the battle of Naseby, see Rte. 8.) It is said that Charles had been warned at Daventry "by the apparition of Lord Strafford in a dream,' who told him by no means to fight the army of the Parliament then at Northampton, "for there was one in it whom he should never conquer by arms." The vision returned on the following night, and the King was assured "that if he kept his resolu-

tion of fighting he was undone." . . . "He was often afterwards heard to say that he wished he had taken the warning, and not fought at Naseby." (The story comes from the MS. narrative of a Mr. Savage, entitled 'Coritani Lachrymantes,' and is printed in Baker, i. 325.)

Lambert, after the death of Cromwell, was one of the leading members of the military council, called the "Wallingford Cabal." He opposed the entrance of General Monk with his Scottish army into England; and after the Long Parliament, under Monk's influence, had been dissolved, and the question of the King's return was pressing, Lambert attempted to collect the scattered regiments, and made Daventry one of the places of rendezvous. His object was certainly to resist the restoration of Charles; more than this is unknown. He appeared himself at Daventry with six troops of horse. Troops were marched against him from Northampton. The two bodies encountered; but Lambert's men would not fight. Lambert himself rode off at full speed, followed by Colonel Ingoldsby, who came up with him (according to the local tradition) on Staverton field, and made him prisoner in spite of his appeal, "What good will my life or imprisonment do to you?" Lambert was conveyed to London, and was condemned to perpetual imprisonment; which he underwent partly in Guernsey, and partly on St. Nicholas Island, in Plymouth Sound, where he died in the winter of 1683. The roads were full of troops flocking to join him at the time of his defeat; but not a blow was struck afterwards. This was the last "struggle of the interregnum."

The mezzotint engraver, John Smith, was born at Daventry in 1652, and died in 1743. He was buried in St. Peter's Ch., Northampton. (Rte. 1.)

Although Daventry itself is a place of little interest, the visitor will find his account in climbing to the top of *Borough Hill*, which overhangs the town on the E. The view from it is of great extent, and very fine; and the entrenchments on the hill, greatly injured as they have been, are still of much interest. Borough (the name indicates that the fortification of the hill had been recognised, and probably made of service, by the first English settlers) was, no doubt, one of those British entrenchments which were adopted by Roman conquerors, and somewhat altered by them. It has been looked upon as the "lofty entrenchment inaccessible to cavalry," within which the Iceni and confederate tribes had posted themselves when they were attacked and defeated by Ostorius Scapula, A.D. 51. This is, at least, doubtful; but in all probability it represents the Beneventa or Bannavanta of the Antonine Itineraries (ii. and viii.), which is placed midway between Venonis (High Cross in Leicestershire) and Lactodorum (Towcester). It is certain that the Borough Camp was an important Roman station, and explorations made at its N.W. angle by Baker, the historian, in 1823, and in 1852 by Mr. Botfield, brought to light the foundations of the Prætorium (or at least of some very extensive building), with hypocaust, baths, and tessellated pavements. The entrenchments, when perfect, had a circumference of rather more than 2¼ m., and the camp has thus been fairly called one of the largest, if not quite the largest, in England. They followed the irregular outline of the hill; and the trenches varied in number at different points, according as the form of the ground called for more or less protection. The general outline was that of a long parallelogram, narrowing towards the N.W. corner. The whole area enclosed was about 150 acres. This N.W. corner was the strongest portion, and

was cut off from the rest of the camp by lofty double valla. Close within these stood the Roman building which has been called the Prætorium. Within the ditch on the E. side, and adjoining the farmyard there, is a spring called Spelwell. Lesser dykes crossed the great camp, or made enclosures within it; and toward the centre of the area was a group of 18 tumuli, of various sizes. Many of these were opened by Baker, and were found to contain urns and pottery of different dates, some Brito-Roman, and others probably earlier. (Some of these urns are now in the Museum at Northampton.) Since the enclosure of "Daventry Field," and the division of the hill by hedges, the lines of entrenchment have been gradually effaced, and in some parts they have disappeared altogether. The tumuli have suffered in the same manner; and a small square entrenchment on the S.E. side of the hill, noticed by Morton, is now barely discernible. But the site alone is sufficiently noticeable; and no one can climb to that commanding summit, "and survey the various lesser hills that rise below him on every side, without being convinced that so sovereign a position must have been occupied from the earliest period of military speculation and defence." The line of the Watling Street may be uninterruptedly traced for many miles in each direction, "and *at intervals*, 45 m. by the itinerary of Antoninus, from Lactodorum (Towcester) to Manduessedon (Manceter, in Warwickshire), the camp at Olderbury near that station being visible on a clear day." (A branch from the Watling Street at Weedon seems to have passed to Borough Hill itself; and the Portway, an ancient road traversing Northants and Oxfordshire, ran not far from the hill, toward Preston Capes, where its line is marked by some entrenchments. The Portlow Hills, at Kilsby, 5 m. N. of Daventry, retain the name of that old road.) The great camp of Arbury Hill, near Badby (see *post*), is visible from the southern point of the hill; as is Castle Dykes, near Farthingstone. The field of Naseby is seen N., and in the same direction, but nearer, Holdenby House, where Charles was seized by Cornet Joyce. Northampton and the depôt at Weedon are conspicuous; and rising from the great central plain of England, of which these tossed hills form the eastern boundary, appear the spires of Coventry. The scene on a clear day, or when shadow chases sunglearns into the far distance, is one to be remembered, not only for its own beauty, but for the wide-reaching historical interests and associations which it suggests. Before the enclosure of the hill, in 1805, the circuit of the camp was used as a racecourse.

Below the hill, and conspicuous in the landscape, are two large reservoirs, belonging to the Grand Junction Canal Company; one of which covers 117½ acres, and is 35 ft. deep when full; the other covers 35½ acres, and is 26 ft. deep. These reservoirs, often very picturesquely placed, and special features in the landscape, are frequent on the S.W. border of Northamptonshire, in connection with the Grand Junction and the Oxford canals, which meet at Braunston, 2½ m. from Daventry. The Braunston Tunnel, through which the Grand Junction passes, is 2042 yards in length. This canal runs to Blisworth, and so into Buckinghamshire. The Oxford Canal passes from Oxford to Birmingham. The "middle lias," or "marlstone," in which the reservoirs are formed, is rich in springs of water. On it rest the clays and rocks of the Upper Lias, and above them the Inferior Oolite beds of Northampton sand. This great liassic and oolitic belt stretches across England from the Dorsetshire coast to the N.E. coast of Yorkshire. The peculiar outline of all this part of

Northamptonshire, with sudden steep descents and narrow valleys, is due to this formation.

On the S. side of Borough Hill, and closely adjoining the Weedon Road, is the place known as *Burnt Walls*, a field of about 6 acres, covered with what seem to be foundations of ruined buildings. According to Morton, there was a tradition that a "house or castle of John of Gaunt" stood here. But the name "ad brende walles" occurs in 1253, in an agreement between Robert Fitzwaller and the Prior of Daventry, indicating that the buildings, whatever they may have been, had been destroyed by fire. The whole area of the field is marked by great inequalities. "Loads of stone of ruined walls and foundations have been digged up here," says Morton, whose 'Nat. Hist. of Northants' was published in 1712; and Baker asserts that across the road, Roman bricks and tiles have been discovered. It has been conjectured that this was the site of a town named Isannavaria or Isannavatia, mentioned in the 6th Iter of Antoninus, and which the distances in miles seem to confound with Bennaventa. A field called Great Shawney in the adjoining parish of Norton has also been regarded as the site of Isannavaria, of which name "Shawney" may be a lingering trace. However this may be, it has been held that the "Isanna" is connected with the Aryan root of the word "iron," and that the town of Isannavaria, rising so near Bennaventa, was either the great iron depôt or the iron factory of the district. That the Romans worked the iron-stone of Northamptonshire we know; but the fact that no traces of smelting-houses or heaps of iron scoriæ have been found here, seems to make such an explanation of the name, and of the rise of the town, somewhat uncertain.

An excursion of some interest—to Staverton, Arbury Hill, Catesby, and Hellidon—may be made from Daventry; and *Fawsley Park* (Sir Raynald Knightley, Bart.) may best be visited from that place.

(*a*) The tourist may take the road to *Staverton* (2 m.) where the church is worth notice. The arches of the main arcade (early Dec.) are unusually narrow; whilst three arches, apparently of the same date, separate the chancel from the N. aisle. This aisle projects eastward beyond the chancel. The first ch. here seems to have been E. Eng., since there are E. Eng. portions at the W. end of the N. aisle and elsewhere. But the whole was nearly rebuilt in the Dec. period, to which the present chancel belongs. The projecting eastern bay of the N. aisle is the traditional Lady-chapel, and is perhaps somewhat later than the rest of the aisle. The E. window approaches the flamboyant. N. is a corbelled bracket with foliage, and a rich canopy above it. S. is a moulded ledge with ball-flower ornament, such as might have carried a group of figures. In the wall between aisle and chancel are sedilia, piscina, and a hagioscope. Against the N. wall is a small Elizabethan monument with *brass* for Thomas Wylmer, 1580. The aisle roof is Dec. At the E. end of the S. wall of the nave is a very large and lofty 3-light Perp. window. The W. tower is Perp. with fine belfry windows, transomed. There are Perp. N. and S. porches.

An interesting tract of high ground is passed over in proceeding from Staverton toward Catesby. This is the watershed from which the streams flow in different directions; the Nen (of which the principal source is here) taking a N.E. course; the Leam flowing westward into Warwickshire, gives name to Leamington and then loses itself in the Ouse. The sources of these two rivers are

not far distant, and are both on this ridge. The Warwickshire Avon rises farther north, close to Naseby; and the Welland, which runs northward, and about 50 m. marks the border of Northamptonshire, rises at Sibbertoft, north of Naseby. The springs of the Cherwell, flowing S.W. toward the Thames, rise at Charwelton, not far S. of Staverton (see Rte. 5). But all these springs rise from the same ridge of high ground, which is in fact the central watershed of England. It is of no very great height, and never attains to much more than 800 ft. above the sea-level; but it has here the reputation of being "the highest ground in England," and since Ingleborough and Helvellyn are far distant there is nothing within sight to dispute the claim. The highest point here is *Arbury Hill* (804 ft.) which lies rt. of the road from Staverton to Catesby, and is crowned by an entrenchment of which the lines have been much effaced. The outer bank, however, enclosing an area of about 12 acres, is still clearly traceable. This camp occurs as one of the boundary marks in a grant by Edmund the Elder (A.D. 944), "cuidam pontifici meo Ælfrico" (who may perhaps be Ælfric, bp. of Hereford) of lands which now form the parishes of Badby, Dodford, and Everdon (Cod. Diplom. ii., No. 399). The "eald burh" is there called Badanbyrig, a name preserved in that of Badby, the ch. of which parish is seen below. Arbury, by which name the hill and camp are now generally known, occurs in other parts of England (as in the parish of Thenford in this county, see Rte. 6), in connection with ancient earthworks. "Studborough" is a third name sometimes given to this Arbury. (Studfall or Stotfall are names of circular earthworks at Aldborough and at Ambleforth in Yorkshire, and Studfall Castle is the name by which the Roman castrum at Lymne in Kent is known. The word seems to signify a "fallen place.") The views from Arbury Hill are fine and interesting, though hardly so extensive as those from Borough Hill. In one direction they extend to Rugby and Coventry; in another up the valley toward Brington and Northampton, over a wide tree-covered country. *Nen pool*, the source of the river, is a marshy swamp below the hill on the N.W. (For the village and ch. of Badby, see *post*, Exc. *b*.)

Catesby lies very near the Warwickshire border, about 3 m. from Staverton. There was there a small priory of Benedictine nuns (they have also been called Cistercian and Gilbertine — the latter by Leland), founded by Philip de Esseby, son of Sasfrid, the proprietor recorded in Domesday. This priory lay at the foot of the hill, toward Warwickshire. On the hill-top was the parish ch., pulled down after the Dissolution, with the exception of a small fragment of wall containing an E. Eng. window. The ch.-yd. is still used. In it is a pyramidal monument for members of the Parkhurst family, for some time lords of the manor. (John Parkhurst, the lexicographer (Greek and Hebrew), was born here in 1728, died 1797). From the ch.-yd. there is a wide view into Warwickshire, with Shuckburgh Park conspicuous on one of the nearer hills. (For the story of the meeting of King Charles with Richard Shuckburgh, the day before the battle of Edgehill, see Rte. 5, *Edgehill*.)

A long elm avenue, picturesque in parts, descends the hill toward Lower Catesby, where stood the priory. Half-way down is a modern house, commanding very fine views, belonging to George Attenborough, Esq. The priory itself stood quite on the low ground, and was succeeded by a manor house of William III.'s time with cedar panelled rooms and much

carving. This in turn has disappeared; the chapel which belonged to it, which was that of the priory, long served as the small parish ch. of Catesby, but was pulled down in 1859, and replaced by the existing small structure which contains portions of the old carving and woodwork. The pulpit and the woodwork of the seats seem to be of the time of Charles I. In the S. wall is a fragment of good ancient stone-work (late Dec.), consisting of three richly canopied arches forming sedilia, and a piscina. Between each arch is a smaller long recess in which is a figure. The priory was of no great wealth; but one of its prioresses was Margaret (died 1257), sister of St. Edmund of Canterbury, and herself of great reputation for sanctity. Among other prioresses occur the unusual names of Amabilia, Biblisia, and Orabilis or Orabilla. The house was dissolved as one of the lesser monasteries, in spite of the recommendation of the commissioners, who found the prioress "a sure, wyse, discrete, and very relygious woman," and her "nunnys" no less excellent. The home and lands were granted first to John Onley, in whose family the manor remained until it was bought by the Parkhursts. The old stew ponds of the priory are still to be seen near the church.

From Catesby the excursion may be continued (about 2 m.) to *Hellidon*, a picturesque village, lying in the midst of broken, hilly ground, full of sketching subjects for the artist. There is a very pleasant view from the ch.-yd.; and from the vicarage, which is on higher ground, the prospect is still finer. The varied and crossing outlines of all this country are very striking; the hills rise abruptly from the high level, and portions of their sides, and the valleys, are well clothed with wood, chiefly elm. The scenery is thoroughly English; quiet and contenting, and suggesting descriptions of the elder poets, Spenser, Milton, and Shakespeare himself. From the higher grounds the views which open in all directions are grand. The Malvern hills are distinctly visible in a clear day; and even the Wrekin in Shropshire is, it is said, sometimes to be distinguished. The source of the Leam is near the eastern entrance of the village, in such a "pool" as that from which the Nen emerges under Arbury Hill. The little ch. of Hellidon (haligdun = holy hill?) is Dec. with a newly-built (1875) N. aisle and arcade, in which stone of different colours has been introduced.

In returning to Staverton some modern cottages are seen l., in one of which is a rich 14th-centy. doorway taken from the Priory buildings at Catesby.

(*b*) *Fawsley Park* (Sir Rainald Knightley, Bart.) is about 3½ m. from Daventry. The road turns off at the village of *Badby*, where is a Dec. ch. of no very great interest. A remarkable Perp. clerestory has been added, the 10 windows of which are continuous, with no wall spaces between them. From the village the road (commanding pleasant views) ascends towards the entrance of Badby wood, now incorporated in the park of Fawsley. This wood is a famous fox-cover and a well-known "meet." It is closely timbered, and is rich in wild-flowers. Walks have been cut through it, and the main drive extends through the wood to the open park. This, including the wood, covers about 700 acres, and is well stocked with deer. It is varied and well-wooded, and from many points there are very beautiful views over this hilly and wooded part of Northamptonshire. In the park, and passed, rt., on the way to the hall, is the "Lodge" which served as the dower-house of Fawsley, and is now a very pictu-

resque ruin. It is of red brick with stone-dressings, gables, and a turret, and may have been built within the first 20 years of the 16th centy. The chimneys are various in design, and deserve notice. The ruin is thickly clothed with ivy, too much so to please the antiquary, since the walls yet standing are considerably endangered by it. There are fine trees round the ruins, which afford an excellent subject for the artist. The Lodge was last inhabited by Lady Anne Knightley, who died in 1704. The "Knightley breed" of cattle was, and still is, famous. The late Sir Charles Knightley was a great patron of agriculture and cattle-breeding.

Fawsley (in Domesday Falelav and Falewesle) was in very early times the head of a great district, out of which many of the neighbouring parishes were afterwards formed. The 2 hundreds of Gravesend and Eagelweardsle long paid "church shot" to Fawsley, thereby recognising it as their ecclesiastical head. The King held the lordship at the time of the Domesday survey; and families of Russell, Capes, and Fawsley possessed it until, in 1415, the manor was bought by Richard Knightley, whose descendants have since retained it. The house of Knightley is one of the very few in England which can prove an undoubted descent from an ancestor recorded in Domesday—Rainald, lord of Knightley (Chenistelei) in Staffordshire, whose son William assumed the local name. Ever since the Knightleys have been distinguished as the owners of broad lands and the contractors of many fortunate marriages ("tu, felix Austria, nube"). The achievement which hangs at the end of the great hall bears no less than 334 quarterings. The *house* has been much altered and added to, the latest additions having been made within the last (1875) 10 years, and not without good architectural effect. The earliest portions of the house seem to be of the first half of the 15th centy., when the Knightleys first came here. The great hall, which, with its oriel, is now the most striking feature, may be later, perhaps about 1500. The original entrance to the hall was at the S. end (from the west); but this doorway has been built up. Opposite to it, and leading into the butteries and kitchens, was another door, which has been removed farther to the N., and the original opening has been built up. On the kitchen side of the hall, however, the arch of the doorway remains, and the spandrels are filled in, one with floriation, the other with two dogs gnawing a bone. The kitchens, which are worth attention, seem to be of the same date as the hall. The oriel in the latter is placed, very unusually, some way down from the daised end. It contains some old glass with shields of arms, and is much enriched on the exterior. The windows and ceiling have been altered. The great chimney, with wide arch, and a very rich cornice above it, sculptured with grapes and foliage and a projecting bracket, representing a stag's head amid twisted branches, is striking. Above the oriel is a small chamber, now inaccessible, except by a ladder, but once reached by a staircase, whether within or without is doubtful. In this chamber were printed some of the 'Martin Marprelate' tracts. These were anonymous pamphlets, issued from a secret press, written in support of the Puritans, whom the Government were trying to suppress. The first appeared in 1588, the year of the Armada. The printer was one Waldegrave, who set up his movable press first at Moulsey, in Surrey, then at Fawsley, afterwards at Norton, another seat of the Knightleys, then at Coventry and at Woolstan in Warwickshire. Sir Richard Knightley was examined before the Council of the Star Chamber, and confessed that "at

his house at Fawsley a book called the 'Epitome' was printed. . . . . Touching the author of the book he knoweth not, unless it were Penry" —a young Welshman, who died in prison after the press had been seized. The Knightleys at this time, and later, supported the cause of the Puritans. Richard Knightley married the eldest and favourite daughter of Hampden, and at Fawsley, before the outbreak of the Civil War, many conferences took place between the chief Parliamentarian leaders. It is said that a printing-press was again at that time set up in the secret chamber. (See *Nugent's* 'Memorials of Hampden.')

In the *dining-room* are *portraits* of Thomas Lord Grey of Groby, full-length, in armour, a page carries his helmet; Charles XII. of Sweden, full-length; Sir Richard Knightley, 1567 (æt. 33), the patron of the "Marprelate" press. His dress is yellow, with black cloak and ruff. At the back of the portrait are the lines:—

"IN VITA FORTUNA.

"So hitherto, by helpe of heavenlie powers,
My doubtful liffe hath ronne his posting race;
Whos recklesse youth hath passed such stormie showers
As might have cute me of in halfe this space.
Yet mightie Jove, by his celestial grace,
Hath brought my barke to such a blissful shore
As daylie doth advance me more and more.
In vita Fortuna."

Here are also his wife, Lady Eliz. Seymour (youngest daughter of the Protector Somerset); and Lucy Knightley, Esq., in a masquerade dress, by *Sir Joshua Reynolds*. There are other portraits of less interest.

The *drawing-room* contains a nymph and infant Bacchus, sculptured at Rome in 1866 by *G. M. Benzoni*.

Some large pieces of artificial water adjoin the house, and the *Ch.* is at no great distance. This is little more than the family chapel and cemetery, and consists of a short nave, chancel, and N. and S. aisle. These may be E. Eng., and a small E. Eng. portal deserves notice. There are some curious carvings on the bench-ends. The *monuments* are—S. side of nave, towards the E.—an altar-tomb with effigies of Sir Richard Knightley (died 1534), and his wife, Joanna Skinerton. He is in armour, with collar of SS, and bareheaded. The effigies, in alabaster, are finely sculptured, and have been coloured. The altar-slab is black. There are small alabaster figures of weepers at the sides. On the pavement of the nave is the *brass* of Thomas Knightley (died 1516); and *brasses* (half-lengths) of Sir Edmund Knightley (died 1542) and his wife Ursula Vere. In the N. aisle is a massive monument commemorating three generations, and by no means to be admired — Sir Valentyne (died 1566); his son Sir Richard, of the "Marprelate" press (died 1615); his son, a second Sir Valentyne Knightley (died 1618); and Sir Valentyne's brother, Sir Francis Knightley (died 1619), are recorded in the inscriptions. There are many other Knightley memorials in the ch., but these are the principal. (A full and accurate pedigree of the Knightleys will be found in Baker.) Among the *vicars* of Fawsley occurs *John Dod* (1624–1645; "By nature," says Fuller, "a witty, by industry a learned, by grace a godly divine." Dod was a famous Puritan, and was occasionally, both here and at Canons Ashby (where he had been rector) silenced for non-conformity." He is best known as the "Decalogist," from his exposition of the Ten Commandments; and he was, according to tradition, the preacher of a sermon on the word "Malt"—the text having been suggested by certain Cambridge students, who caught him on the high road, and compelled him to preach from the stump of a hollow tree. (This sermon will be found in 'Memorials of the Rev. John

Dod,' reprinted at Northampton (Taylor), 1875.) "The worthy sayings of old Mr. Dod" had a great provincial reputation, and were often pasted on cottage-walls. Another vicar was *John Wilkins*, afterwards Bishop of Chester, one of the projectors of the Royal Society, and author of some curious books, among which 'A Discovery of a New World' (the moon), 'with a Discourse concerning the possibility of a passage thither,' was written at Fawsley. "Old Mr. Dod" was his maternal grandfather, and Wilkins was born here at his house.

(For the road from Daventry to Byfield, and thence to Banbury, see Rte. 5.)

Starting again from the Weedon station, the rly. soon passes rt. *Brockhall*, the seat of the Rev. T. C. Thornton. The manor for some time belonged to the Eytons, who may have built the house, which is partly Jacobæan, but has been much altered and added to. It contains some *portraits;* among which is one which, without any certainty, has been regarded as that of Robert Catesby, the conspirator (see *post*, Ashby St. Ledger). The little ch. has Norm. and E. Eng. portions. The chancel has been almost rebuilt since 1840. After passing the woods of Brockhall, the old house of *Norton* (Alfred Seymour, Esq.) is seen l. Norton was long the residence of Beriah Botfield, Esq. (d. 1863), a well-known antiquary and lover of books. Norton at one time belonged to the Knightleys, and the present house seems to have been built by Sir Richard Knightley, who, after 1588, made it his principal residence. It was much altered by the Botfields. The *Ch.* is Dec. and Perp.; but is chiefly interesting from its monuments. In the S. aisle is an elaborate altar-tomb, with rich canopy, for Lady Elizabeth Seymour, second wife of Sir Richard Knightley, and fourth daughter of the Protector Somerset. Her effigy (she died 1602) is richly dressed and coloured. (Sir Richard was buried at Fawsley, see *ante.*) In front of the tomb are tablets with verses, recording the lady's merits:—

"Whose praises, while the sun and moon do shine,
By tract of time shall never be contriv'd."

In the N. aisle is a mural monument, with small figure, for Elizabeth Verney, died 1633. In the chancel is a tablet for Dudley Knightley, died 1602, from the effect of a musket-shot at the siege of Ostend. There are many other monuments of later date; and a small *brass* for William Knyght (died 1506) and wife.

(The little ch. of *Whilton*, 1½ m. rt. of the rly., was originally E. Eng., but has been nearly rebuilt.)

Nothing calls for special notice until we reach the so-called

Crick Stat. The village of Crick (for which see Rte. 7) is, however, at least 3 m. distant, on the rt.; and the stat. is really that of *Watford*, which village is about ½ m. distant, rt.

The *Grand Union* Canal, which connects this district with the Trent and Mersey navigation, joins the *Grand Junction* Canal in the parish of Norton. It is crossed in walking from the stat. to Watford.

Watford Ch. is not specially important, but may repay a visit. It is early Dec., except the chancel and tower, which are Perp. The chancel is unusually long, with 3 large Perp. windows on the S. side. On the N. an arch, now closed, opened to a chantry, at present used as a vestry. Eastward of this arch is the arch of a very rich Dec. tomb, with elaborate mouldings; either a founder's tomb or an Easter sepulchre. This tomb was open to the chantry N. This chantry is early Dec., like the nave; but in the N. wall are three tomb-

recesses of late Dec. character, with rich finials. The S. porch retains the dog-tooth, but is early Dec. in its mouldings. Watford at the date (Edward I.) of the early portions of the ch. was divided between 4 daughters of Eustace Arden. Three portions afterwards centered in the family of Burnaby, and in their time the chancel and tower were erected. The present lord of the manor is Lord Henley; and there are some Henley monuments in the chancel, including one for Morton, Lord Henley, 1st Baron Henley of Chardstock, the diplomatist, died 1830. *Watford Court* (Lord Henley) adjoins the ch., and has Elizabethan portions.

[From this station the tourist may visit *Ashby St. Ledgers*, the old seat of the Catesbys, where the old house and ch. are of interest. The distance from Crick station is 2 m. The Catesbys (who took their name from Catesby, near Staverton, see *ante*) acquired the manor of Ashby in the reign of Richard II. by marriage with the heiress of Robert Cranford. It was Sir William Catesby who, under Richard III. figured as the "Cat" in the well-known rhyme—

> "The rat, the cat, and Lovell our dog,
> Rule all England under the hog."

The rat was Sir Richard Radcliffe; Lord Lovell was the dog; the hog refers to the boar which the King had adopted as one of the supporters of his shield of arms. This is of course the Catesby of Shakespeare's Richard III., where he is made to appear on the field of Bosworth, but his farther fortunes are not noticed. He was taken prisoner there, and three days later was beheaded at Leicester. In the curious will made on the morning of his execution (see it in Baker, vol. i., and in Dugdale's 'Warwickshire') he desires that his body may be buried in the ch. of Ashby St. Ledgers (as it was). He was attainted in the ensuing parliament, and his estates were granted by the Crown to Sir James Blount. But his son, George Catesby, obtained a reversal of the attainder, and recovered the estates. He provides by will for his burial in the church of Ashby: "appointing that two marble stones should be brought thither, the price of each 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*: one to be layd upon his father and mother, and the other upon himself, as a memorial for him and his wife." Sir William Catesby, great-grandson of this George, was, Nov. 15, 1581, with Lord Vaux of Harrowden, and Sir Thomas Tresham of Rushden, cited before the Star Chamber; when all these were convicted, chiefly on the confession of Campion the Jesuit, of harbouring Jesuits in their houses, and of being present at the celebration of mass. The son and successor of Sir William was *Robert Catesby*, probably the projector, certainly the head, of the Gunpowder Plot. He had been engaged in the plot of Essex, and is described as a man of considerable talents, daring, and of inflexible resolution, and ready to sacrifice everything in the cause of the Catholics. It is of course unnecessary to describe the Plot here. (For the best and fullest history of it, see *Jardine's* 'Gunpowder Plot,' 1857). After the discovery, Winter and others of the conspirators rode hastily to Ashby St. Ledgers, where it was expected that Catesby would follow. Catesby himself, with Rookwood, Percy, and John and Christopher Wright, rode with such speed that, leaving London at 11 in the morning, they reached Ashby at 6 on the evening of the same day. (The distance is nearly 80 m.) "Rookwood rode 30 m. on one horse in 2 hours." "Percy and John Wright cast off their cloaks into the hedge to ride the more speedily." Winter and his companions were about to sit down to supper with Lady Catesby, when Catesby and his fellows arrived with the news of the apprehension of

Faux. After a short conference, the whole party, taking what arms they could, rode off to Dunchurch in Warwickshire, and thence to Holbeach, a house in Staffordshire belonging to Stephen Lyttelton, where they resolved to make a stand. Here they defended themselves against the sheriff and his *posse* for two days, when the house was accidentally fired, and Catesby and Percy rushing out, the first was shot dead on the spot, the other only survived a day or two. Catesby was attainted; and his estates escheating to the Crown, were granted to Sir William Irwing. Ashby St. Ledgers was bought of Irwing in 1612 by Bryan Janson, in whose family it remained until 1703, when it was sold to Joseph Ashley, whose representative, Captain Senhouse, is the present (1876) possessor.

The manor-house and ch. of Ashby St. Ledgers deserve the attention of the artist. They stand on high, but somewhat level ground, and are much surrounded by trees. The court in front of the house, with the church-tower and gate-house on one side, the weather-tinted roofs and chimneys, and the fine trees beyond, is very picturesque. The front of the house is low, with three gables, and belongs to the Elizabethan building. There are portions which are probably older; and the garden-front, with tower and balustrade, is modern. The whole group, with its oriels, gables, and ivy-covered parapets, is striking, and full of antique character. The billiard-room, a sort of wainscoted hall, may have been the chamber in which Lady Catesby was about to sup when her son arrived. Over the gate-house is the so-called *plot-room*, in which, according to the local tradition, Catesby and his fellow-conspirators occasionally met to arrange the details of their plot. It is a room of timber and plaster, with a staircase which is certainly later than the days of the Catesbys. A more ancient building adjoins it; and the outbuildings in the court are (some of them) ancient.

The *Ch.*, dedicated to St. Leodegarius (St. Leger or Ledger), bp. of Autun, is interesting in itself, as well as for its Catesby memorials. The lofty arcade, N. and S. (there is no clerestory), is Perp. The original Perp. roofs remain. The wide chancel-arch and the chancel are also Perp.; and there are four uniform Perp. windows on either side of the nave. The rood-screen with canopied top is in good condition; and a round carrying the staircase projects into the angle of the S. aisle. (Compare *Floore, ante.*) The tower seems earlier than the rest of the ch., since the nave-aisles are built up against it. In the glass of one of the windows were formerly the figures of John de Catesby and his wife. He died in 1437, and was the grandfather of Sir William Catesby, the follower of Richard III. It is probable that this John de Catesby was the rebuilder of the ch., since it is of uniform character, and belongs to the first half of the 15th centy. There are some fragments of stained glass, among which occurs the lion passant sable, crowned or, of Catesby. In the *chancel* are the following monuments:—a marble slab, on which were the *brasses* of Sir William Catesby (died 1470), "Unus trencheatorum regis H. sesti" —two wives and six children. The brasses were remaining in Bridges' time, but have since been torn away. This was the father of the Sir William taken at Bosworth. Within the altar-rails is the fine *brass*, well preserved, of this second Sir William—beheaded after Bosworth—and his wife. They are in heraldic dresses, under rich canopies. (The arms on his tabard are Catesby quartering Montfort, Braundiston, and Cranford, and on her mantle Zouch and Cantilupe quarterly.) This is one of the "marble-stones" which Sir William's son, George Catesby, directs to be laid

here (see *ante*). On the N. wall is the monument of Bryan Janson and wife, "sometime citizen and draper of London," and the purchaser of the manor in 1612. There are other Janson monuments, and several for Ashleys — one of which, with figures of Justice and Conjugal Affection, is by *J. Bacon.* In the *North Aisle*, at the E. end, is the *brass* of Sir Richard Catesby (died 1552), in armour and tabard); and here are several memorials of the Arnolds of Ashby Lodge; including one very elaborate monument (modern Gothic) with canopy, for George H. Arnold, died 1844. At the E. end of the S. aisle are three small *brasses*:— Thomas Stokes, died 1416, and wife; William Smyght, rector of Oxhulfe and Eldtoft, died 1510; and a Catesby, in tabard, circ. 1500.

Ashby Lodge (W. J. Angerstein, Esq.) is about 1 m. N.W. of the village, near the Warwickshire border. From the ridge of high ground near the house very fine views are commanded over the central plain of England. The walks in Braunston Cleves, which lead toward this summit, are very pleasant. There is a good collection of pictures at Ashby Lodge, and an excellent topographical library. The house was built by George Arnold, Esq., in 1722; and among the pictures are portraits of himself and of his daughter, painted by *Hogarth*, when on a visit here.

The village of *Braunston* stands picturesquely on high ground. The ch. was entirely rebuilt in 1849 (R. C. Hussey, architect). It is of Dec. character. In it is an effigy (removed from the old building) in grey marble, cross-legged, and perhaps that of a de Ros, about 1270. The family of De Ros or Roos held the manor from the reign of John to 1508, when it passed to female heiresses.

The ch. of *Barby*, about 1 m. N. of the house of Ashby Lodge, is of little interest. It is very late Perp.]

Proceeding from Crick Stat., the rly. passes through a long tunnel, which pierces the high ground on the border of the county. It is $1\frac{3}{4}$ m. long, and is ventilated by 2 large shafts, each 60 ft. in diameter; one 120 ft. deep. the other 90 ft. In the line of the tunnel was an extensive quicksand, which was not pierced without difficulty and danger. The cost of piercing was 300,000*l.* The engineer was Stephenson. The ch. of *Kilsby* lies to the L on emerging from the tunnel. It is of no great interest, and was restored in 1869.

The rly. almost immediately crosses the border of Northamptonshire, and soon reaches

Rugby Stat. (See *Handbook for Warwickshire.*)

ROUTE 5.

NORTHAMPTON BY TOWCESTER TO STRATFORD-ON-AVON. (EDGEHILL.)

East and West Junction Railway.

For the line from Northampton to *Blisworth* see Rte. 1. At Blisworth the E. and W. Junction Rly., opened in 1874, begins. There is nothing which calls for special notice before reaching

Towcester Stat. (Here is a *junction* with the rly. from Blisworth to Banbury (see Rte. 6).

Towcester (*Inns:* Pomfret Arms; Talbot. Pop. of parish in 1871, 2677) lies on the line of the Watling Street, and on the rt. bank of the little river Towe, which rising, like the other Northamptonshire rivers, from the high ground on the eastern border, after passing Towcester, forms for a short distance the boundary of the county, until it falls into the Ouse near Stony Stratford. Towcester was the site of the Roman station of Lactodorum. After the Saxon conquest it became a town of importance from its position, and Edward the Elder, in 921, during the struggle with the Danes, ordered the "burg" to be built there (*getimbran*; it does not perhaps imply that the town was before entirely without defence). The Danes from Northampton and Leicester fought (in the same year) against this "burg" for a whole day; "but the folk who were within defended it until help came to them, and the enemy left the burg." In the same autumn King Edward, with a force of West Saxons, went to Passenham, "and sat there while they surrounded the burg at Tofeceastre (Towcester) with a stone wall." ('Sax. Chron.' *ad ann.*) Of this "stone wall"—(which marks an advance in fortification beyond the earthen dyke, but which can hardly have been so strong or so well wrought as the "wall of squared stone" with which Athelstane surrounded Exeter)—there are no traces: but it probably followed the line of a dyke and fosse, which may still be traced, and which formed an irregular, angular enclosure of some extent. (A plan is given in 'Baker,' vol. ii.) The mound, which is an especial feature of Saxon strong places, and which is found at other "burgs" "set in order" by Edward the Elder —Huntingdon, Bedford, Tempsford—also remains here. It is circular, about 24 ft. high, with a diameter of 100 ft., and rises immediately above the river Towe, a little N. of the ch. It is known as Burg Hill, and since Roman coins and pottery have been found in great quantity on and about it, the mound was no doubt in existence in the days of Lactodorum, though it was certainly turned to account by the Saxons, and must be regarded as the chief feature of the "ceastre," or stronghold, which they named from the adjoining river. The hill is planted with fir-trees, and a trench which formerly surrounded it has been filled up.

There was much skirmishing in and about Towcester during the Civil War; and at that time the old defences seem once more to have played their part. In October, 1643, Prince Rupert, with a part of the Royalist army, was quartered at Towcester, whilst the Parliamentarians were at Newport Pagnell. Constant fights took place, and on one occasion Towcester was surprised in the night, the sentinels and 30 men killed, and 2 colours and many prisoners carried off to Newport. Rupert then determined to fortify the place for a winter garrison, and called in pioneers and labourers for the purpose. He "made Towcester very strong, and brought the water round about the town." This was the only royal garrison in Northamptonshire, and it was abandoned in the following January, when it became necessary to concentrate the royal forces at Oxford, where Charles had established his court. The works constructed by Rupert were then "slighted." Both parties subsequently passed through, and from time to time occupied Towcester. The main street of the town is, in fact, the Watling Street, and Towcester was thus an important halting-place on the great road from London to Chester. It was famous for its inns, one of which, now called the Talbot, but then the Tabard, was sold in 1440 to Archdeacon Sponne, who gave it to the town. In this house the arms of Sponne, with his name beneath, re-

main in one of the windows. The Dean of St. Patrick's used to halt at the Talbot on his way to Ireland, and a chair of carved oak preserved there is still known as Dean Swift's chair. Besides these inns, there are one or two picturesque old houses in the town, the best of which, in the market-place, is early Tudor. The *Ch.* is of some interest. The nave-arcade is E. Eng., with a Perp. clerestory, and Perp. aisles. The chancel is Dec., and retains the roof erected by Sir Robert Banastre in 1640. The modern nave roof is by Bernasconi. At the W. end of the nave is a gallery "erected by Henry Newby, citizen and haberdasher, born in the town : . . . for the glory of God and a fayre ornament for this parish church, 1627." It is a good example. The panelled front has slightly sunk carving, and the whole rests on massive oaken posts. In the chancel is a small mural monument for Hierome Farmer (died 1602), who "attained to the honour of a great-grand-unckle ;" and at the end of the S. aisle is the monument with effigy of William Sponne, Archdeacon of Norfolk from 1422 to 1447, and rector of Towcester. He wears a long, black gown, having sleeves edged with fur, and a collar lined with fur. On his head is a close, black cap. An inner dress reaches to his feet, and nearly covers them. Underneath, and seen through the open arcade of the altar-tomb, is a cadaver. Archdeacon Sponne gave the Talbot inn to the town "with lands belonging to it for the payment of the fifteens for the parish of Towcester, if any such tax be given by parliament." If not, the rents were to go for paving the town or for other uses. The tower is massive Perp. and lofty. Edw. IV. granted to the parishioners, for building this tower and the nave aisles, stone from a quarry in Whittlebury Forest. The stained glass in this ch. was destroyed by one Robert Stethberry, who, according to a tract of 1642, became mad and died in consequence. His wife was "exceedingly tormented on a sudden in her limbs," and died also; and his sister, who "tore the book of Common Prayer away from her Bible, with which it was bound up," suffered greatly in the "hands which had done that ill deed."

The entrance of *Easton Neston Park* (T. G. Fermor Hesketh, Esq.) is at the eastern end of the town, from which the house is distant about a mile. (The *exterior of the house* and the *ch.* are the objects of interest). Easton Neston (Estanestone and Aldestanestone in Domesday) first rises into interest as the property of Sir Richard Empson, the minister of Henry VII. Empson, like his fellow Dudley ("bold men and careless of fame," they are called by Lord Bacon, "that took toll of their master's grist"), was of low degree, the son of a sieve-maker at Towcester, where he was born and educated. His father was no doubt a man of some local consequence. The son became a lawyer, and seems to have been introduced to the King by Sir Reginald Bray, who had large estates in Northamptonshire. Richard Empson, after his attainder, was found to be possessed of 10 manors in Northants, besides the manor and hundred of Towcester, all of which he had acquired during his time of favour with the King. On the death of Henry VII., Dudley was tried in London, and Empson was sent down to Northampton for trial. Both were attainted, and both remained in prison for a year afterwards. Both were beheaded on Tower Hill, August 17, 1510. Empson's estates were granted to Sir William Compton; but in 1513 Thomas Empson, son of Sir Richard, obtained an act of restitution. In 1527 he sold them (apparently) to William Fermor of Somerton in Oxfordshire. The real purchaser, however, was Richard, brother of this

William Fermor, whose descendant, Sir William Fermor, was made a baronet by Charles I. in 1641. His son in 1692 became Baron Lempster (Leominster), and in 1721 his son, the second Lord Lempster, became Earl of Pomfret (Pontefract). The titles became extinct on the death of the fifth earl in 1867. The estates passed to the sister of the last earl, Lady A. M. Fermor Hesketh; and her son, the present possessor, succeeded her in 1870.

The first *house* of Easton Neston stood in the park, between Easton ch. and the river Towe. In it (June 27, 1603) James I. met Anne of Denmark and Prince Henry on their first coming into England. The King had preceded them. The Queen and Prince came to Easton from Althorp (see Rte. 7), and were received by Sir George Fermor. "There wear an infinit companie of lords and ladies," says Lady Anne Clifford, "and other people, that the countrie could scarse lodge them." The King then knighted, among others, Sir Hatton Fermor, the son of his host. In October, 1604, the King and Queen met here Prince Charles. Sir Robert Cary, his governor, says, "I attended his grace all his journey up; and at Sir George Fermor's in Northamptonshire were found the King and Queen, who were very glad to see their young son." The present house was built by the first Lord Lempster. It is on much higher ground, and consisted of a centre and wings. The wings were first built, and were by Wren. The centre, by Nicholas Hawksmoor, was finished in 1702, 20 years after the wings had been built. These have been removed. Hawksmoor's portion of the house remains, and is a fine composition, though it suffers of course from the absence of the wings, with reference to which it was designed. (The complete elevation may be seen in Campbell's 'Vitruvius.' The western front extended 320 ft.) The parapet was originally decorated with antique statues—a portion of the collection bought by the first Lord Lempster from the Earl of Arundel. These have been replaced by urns; and the whole collection, including the statues on the balustrade, was given (1755) by the widow of Thomas, first Earl of Pomfret, to the University of Oxford, where it was lodged with the other portion of the Arundel marbles given to the University by Lord Henry Howard, afterwards Duke of Norfolk. These "Pomfret marbles," as they are called, consist of 130 Greek, Roman, and Egyptian statues, busts, and basso-relievos. The house contains some fine rooms. The staircase is painted, by *Sir James Thornhill*, with subjects from the life of Cyrus; and there are still some pictures of interest, though many of those described by Bridges have disappeared. The most noticeable are, Battle of Valenciennes, by *P. de Loutherbourg*, dated 1794, and full of portraits; two very interesting *Canalettos*, Old Kensington Palace and London Bridge; and some Fermor portraits, including the first Lord Lempster (builder of the house), by *Kneller*. In one room are hunting scenes by *Abraham Hondius*, set in panels bordered by carved fruit and flowers.

The *Church* is close to the house (where the key must be asked for). It is Perp., and was rebuilt temp. Henry IV. by the executors of John Bacon, citizen and woolstapler of London. It is chiefly noticeable for the monuments of Fermors, which are fine examples of their several periods. In the chancel is an altar-tomb with *brasses* for "Rychard Fermer, merchant of the staple of Calays" (d. 1552), and Anne his wife. This was the Fermor who bought Easton from the son of Sir Richard Empson. He died here; and "it is remarkable," says Collins (Peerage, iv.), "that, having some foreknow-

ledge of his own death, he invited on that very day many of his friends and neighbours, and taking leave of them, retired to his devotions, and was found dead in that posture." On the brass he is in armour. Opposite is the monument of Sir George Fermor, (d. 1612), and his wife Mary Curson (d. 1628). This is unusual, and very fine for its period. The figures are in alabaster; Sir George on a rolled up mat, with armour seamed and studded with gold. His head rests on a tilting helmet, with cock's head and neck as crest, painted red. His wife lies above him on a raised slab; she has a large widow's hood or curtch on her head, and a quilled ruff. At the back of the tomb a number of pennons bearing shields are arranged like an outspread peacock's tail, rich in gold and colour. The inscriptions have been obliterated. On the S. wall is the monument of Sir Hatton Fermor, (d. 1640), and his second wife Anne Cockayne. This is of black and white marble, and the figures are erect. He is bareheaded, in armour, but with a large cravat and enormous loose boots. His wife, richly dressed, rests her head on an hour-glass. This monument was erected by her "in the 22nd year of her widowhood, anno 1662." The seated figure of George, 3rd Earl of Pomfret (d. 1830), is by *Baily*, R.A. Opposite is a monument by *Chantrey*, R.A., for George, 2nd earl (d. 1785), "a full-sized group, emblematic of filial affection." There is also a monument by *Chantrey* for Peter Denys (d. 1816), and Lady Charlotte Denys (d. 1835); three female figures hover above an urn. In both aisles are modern heraldic windows.

The views from the ch. and from the house are wide and pleasant, extending across the northern portion of Whittlebury Forest. The spires of Grafton Regis and of Alderton are seen in the distance. Near the house is a fragment of an entrance archway, said to have been removed from the earlier mansion. The park is large and well wooded.

From Towcester expeditions may be made into the old forest district of *Whittlebury*, and to one or two places of interest on and adjoining the road between Towcester and Weedon.

(*a*) *Whittlebury Forest* was the most southerly of a range of royal forests which at one time extended almost continuously from one end of Northamptonshire to the other. Beyond it, to the north, were Salcey Forest and Yardley Chase; and then came the great forest of Rockingham, which stretched almost from the town of Northampton to Stamford. A perambulation of the year 1300 shows that Whittlebury Forest formed an irregular triangle, enclosing about 32 square miles, or 20,480 acres. The boundaries passed from Stony Stratford to Lillingstone in Buckinghamshire; thence by Silverstone across to the Watling Street north of Paulerspury, then by Potterspury and Cosgrove again to Stony Stratford. These boundaries were gradually narrowed; in spite of an attempt made in the reign of Charles I. to widen them considerably. In 1791 it was found that the actual forest contained only 5424 acres. The Duke of Grafton, by grant from Queen Anne in 1712, was Lord Warden or Master Forester. In 1854, Whittlebury Forest was sold by the Crown; the chief purchaser being the Earl of Southampton. It was then enclosed, and a park of 700 acres was formed by Lord Southampton, and well stocked with deer, the old denizens of the wood. Lord Southampton's estates here passed by purchase in 1873 to Robert Loder, Esq. The various "walks" of the forest—Hasleborough, Sholebrook, Wakefield, Hanger, and Shrob—are still recognised, though much has been enclosed; and there is still some very pleasant woodland scenery in the

district. On the Buckinghamshire side are some fine oaks. The country is comparatively level, with a deep, clayey soil. Ancient foresters of Whittlebury, Broneman, Osbert, Alan, and others, are recorded in early charters (the first temp. Henry II.). There was a royal hunting-lodge at Silverton, within the forest, and many orders occur for the harbouring of the King's hounds and hawks before and after his visits to Whittlebury. Stag-hunting has long been unknown here; but the Duke of Grafton's foxhounds still wake the forest echoes, and his huntsmen, like ancient foresters, are clad in "Kendal green" instead of the usual scarlet.

From Towcester the tourist may drive or walk to the village of *Whittlebury*, 3 m. The ch. is Dec., and contains a monument by *Chantrey* for Mrs. Bradshaw — a female figure rising from a tomb. Adjoining the Green is *Whittlebury Lodge* (R. Loder, Esq.), an Elizabethan house, built by Lord Southampton in 1868. Cross-roads, with pleasant forest views, lead from Whittlebury to *Paulerspury* (2 m.), so called from the Paveleys, its ancient lords. The *Ch.* contains E. Eng. (N. chantry) portions, but the nave and aisles were rebuilt in 1844. The chancel was restored, 1855. The circular font is late Norm. The E. window is by *Clayton and Bell;* all the rest are filled with modern stained glass. In the chancel are 2 wooden effigies of a knight and lady, Sir Laurence de Paveley and his wife. Here is also a large altar-tomb, with effigies of Sir Arthur Throckmorton (d. 1626) and his wife; they are placed in line, head joining head. Sir Arthur is in armour, but wears a coif. There are also monuments for Bathursts and Sheddens, families connected with Paulerspury. (Sir Benjamin Bathurst (d. 1704), whose memorial is here, was father of the 1st Earl Bathhurst, created 1772.) Two of the bells are said to have been brought from Suffield Priory—a small house of Benedictines, of which no remains exist, which stood on the border of Buckinghamshire, near Lillingstone. Dr. William Carey, "the patriarch of Indian missions, and the first Oriental Professor of Languages in India," was born here in 1761—the son of a cottager. (See a Memoir in Baker, vol. ii.) He died at Calcutta in 1834, having done much "in opening the store of Indian literature to the knowledge of Europe."

In a hedgerow between Paulerspury and Grafton Regis is a much-shattered and venerable tree, generally known as the *Queen's Oak.* "Four hundred years ago it was a stalwart tree, and the bleak winds of January, 1464, had scarcely stripped it of its brown leaves, when Edw. IV., out a-hunting in Whittlebury forest, and perhaps moodily turning over in his mind his marriage with the Princess of Savoy which Warwick was then abroad negotiating, was suddenly stopped under its branches by a fair stranger, who asked him where she might find the King. It was Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Woodville, Earl Rivers, who was on her way from her father's house at Grafton to entreat the King for the reversal of the attainder against her late husband, Sir John Grey, when the King declared himself to be the person she sought; she instantly fell on her knees, to be raised as quickly by the too gallant monarch, who failed not to see the fair stranger home. There the fascination of the beautiful widow, and the dexterous management of her ambitious mother, Dowager Duchess of Bedford, which an act of parliament afterwards solemnly pronounced 'the sorcery and witchcraft of Elizabeth and her mother' led to her secret marriage with the King in a private chamber at Grafton in the following May."—James's 'Northamptonshire.'

Grafton Regis is about 2 m. from

Paulerspury, on the rt. of the road from Buckingham to Northampton. The village stands on high ground, and the manor-house, to which much historical interest was attached, must have been conspicuous and important, especially from the Northampton side. It was ruined during the Civil War, and although part of it has been made habitable, it has lost all its ancient character. Grafton became the property of Thomas Widville early in the reign of Hen. VI. The family of Widville can be traced in Grafton and its neighbourood as early as the 12th centy., and after they became lords of Grafton they rose rapidly in importance. Sir Richard Widville, of Grafton, married Jacquetta de Luxemburgh, dowager Duchess of Bedford, and became Baron and (1466) Earl Rivers. He and his son, Sir John Widville, were beheaded at Northampton, Aug. 12, 1469 (after the northern insurrection and the fight on Danesmoor, see the present Rte., *post*). His eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married Sir John Grey of Groby, killed at St. Alban's, 1460; and she afterwards became, in the manner told above, Queen of Edw. IV. There were, in succession, 3 Earls Rivers—of whom the 2nd, beheaded at Pontefract (1483), was the patron of Caxton. The last Earl bequeathed Grafton to his nephew, Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset. His son, the 2nd Marquis, sold it, in 1527, to Hen. VIII., who erected the manor into an honour, to which were attached many inferior lordships. It continued in the crown until Charles II., in 1665, made it part of Queen Catherine's jointure; and afterwards granted it to Henry Bennett, Earl of Arlington, for his life, and then to the Earl of Euston and his heirs. This Lord Euston was the 2nd son of King Charles by the famous Duchess of Cleveland. He was afterwards created *Duke of Grafton*, and his descendant, the present (6th) duke is still the lord of the greater part of the ancient honour.

Ed. IV. went from Stony Stratford to his private marriage at Grafton, May 1, 1464, and returned to Stratford on the same day. The marriage was not publicly declared until the following Michaelmas. The sons of Edw. and Eliz. were the two princes murdered in the Tower. The eldest daughter, Elizabeth, became the wife of Hen. VII. It was in the old house of Grafton that Hen. VIII., in 1529, received Card. Campeggio for the last time. The pope had "sent an evocation" of the Queen's cause to himself at Rome, and Campeggio accordingly prepared to leave England. Wolsey accompanied Campeggio to Grafton, and a full account of the interview is given by Cavendish ('Life of Wolsey'). Wolsey was at this time supposed to be in deep disgrace with his master, and the courtiers carefully watched the King's countenance and bearing. But Henry "gently entertained the cardinal," for which "Mistress Anne Boleyn was much offended with the King, as far as she durst." There was no room for Wolsey at Grafton, and Cavendish (his gentleman usher) "provided a lodging for him at a house of Master Empson's called Easton" (the old house of Easton Neston), "whither my lord came by torchlight." Hen. VIII. was more than once at Grafton for the sake of hunting. On one occasion he "touched two poor women" for the evil here; the Mayor of Northampton sent a present of pears to the "King's grace;" and there was paid "to a power woman that gave the King's grace peres and nuttes in the forest, iiijs. viiid." Elizabeth was here in 1568, on one of her progresses. The Royalists seized and held the house in 1643; and on the Christmas Eve of that year it was stormed and taken by "Sergeant-Major General" Skippon and some

3000 men. The soldiers "found great and rich plunder, which they had for their pains," and, "for prevention of future inconveniences, the house was fired" on Christmas Day. Many prisoners were taken, among whom was the Royalist commander, Sir John Digby. The house was left, and long remained, in complete ruin.

The *Ch.* of Grafton Regis is of no very great interest, though it has early portions, and a Trans-Norm. font. In the N. aisle are some Widville monuments; two uninscribed and without effigies; the third an altar-tomb, with *brass* for Sir John Widville (living in 1392), grandfather of the first Lord Rivers. The armour is an excellent example. Round the verge of the slab is an inscription, of which the first two lines run—"Propiciante Deo qui Campanile peregit John Wydevil sub eo jam lapis iste tegit,"—showing that the tower was built by this Sir John. In the N. Chapel is a monument by *Flaxman*, for a Countess of Euston, died 1808. It is a tablet flanked by small figures of Faith and Hope.

From Grafton Regis the road may be followed to *Potterspury* (2 m.), a village so named from a manufacture of coarse ware, such as flower-pots and vases, which was carried on here at an early period, but has long been discontinued. The clay was brought here from Cosgrave. The *Ch.* of Potterspury has undergone much restoration, partly in 1848, and partly in 1860. It contains no monuments of interest. 1 m. from the village is *Wakefield Lodge*, the seat of the Duke of Grafton. The house, of no great size, was built by the second Duke, from a design by Kent. The forest, lawns, and grounds, are pleasant and picturesque; and there is a lake of 35 acres. There are some family portraits at Wakefield.

[There is little to attract the visitor in that extreme angle of the county which runs into Buckinghamshire. The ch. of *Furtho*, 1½ m. from Potterspury, was rebuilt in 1620 by the family of the same name, and was restored in 1870. In the chancel is a monument, with effigies of a man and 2 wives, supposed to be that of Anthony Furtho, who died in the 1st year of Elizabeth. *Cosgrave* Ch., 1½ m. from Furtho, is of no great interest. Cosgrave Hall belongs to J. C. Mansel, Esq.; and in the chancel of the ch. is a memorial-window for Henry Mansel, late Dean of St. Paul's. *Passenham*, on the Ouse, a little S. of the ford (Stony Stratford), where the Watling Street crosses the river, is interesting from the mention of it which occurs in the Saxon Chron. In 921, while Edward the Elder was building the "stone wall" at Towcester (see *ante*), he "fared with his West Saxons to Passanhamme, and sat there while they wrought at the wall." Bridges describes an "almost square entrenchment" near the ford here, which has quite disappeared. In the ch. are some monuments of Banastres, one of whom (died 1649) "built and beautified the fayre chancell." The ch. and vicarage seem to occupy the site of a considerable ancient cemetery. Skeletons in great numbers, and much pottery and glass (Roman and Brito-Roman) have been found here. The ch. of *Wicken* was rebuilt in 1758. *Wicken Park*, belonging to Sir Charles Mordaunt, is occupied by Lord Penrhyn.]

(*b.*) The distance from Towcester to Weedon is 8 m. L. of the main road, and about 1½ m. from Towcester, is *Green's Norton*, where the ch. was formerly rich in monuments of the family of Green, of which little more than fragments now exist. They were displaced and destroyed at different periods, the greatest mischief having been done in 1826, when the ch. was "beautified;" a word which

seems to carry with it much the same signification as the more modern term "restoration." The manor of Green's Norton was bought in 1355 by Sir Henry Green, Lord Chief Justice of England, whose ancestors were lords of Boughton in Northamptonshire (see Rte. 8), and were named from the "green" of the village there, according to Halstead (*Genealogies*). However this may be, Sir Henry was the father of a Thomas Green, the first of six Sir Thomas Greens of Greens-Norton, who succeeded each other without interruption. The last Sir Thomas died in 1506, leaving two daughters co-heiresses. The younger, Matilda, married Sir Thomas Parr. Their daughter Catherine became Queen of Henry VIII., and her brother William was created Earl of Essex by King Henry, and Marquis of Northampton, in the first year of Edward VI. Henry VIII., anticipating the euphuism of his daughter's court, called Sir William Parr his "Integrity." Edward VI. spoke of him as "mine honest uncle." On his death without issue, in 1570, his estates passed to the Crown, and Green's Norton has since that time been in various hands. Tradition asserts that Queen Catherine Parr was born at Green's Norton. The Parrs, however, were of Kendal, in Westmoreland; and Fuller, in his 'Worthies,' "resigns her over" to that country, "to prevent cavils." (There is a very interesting portrait of this Queen at Glendon Hall, near Kettering (see Rte. 9.)

The manor-house of the Greens stood N.W. of the ch.; but has utterly disappeared. The *Church*, chiefly E. Eng., has been much "restored," though not of late years. The spire was rebuilt in 1807. The Green monuments are described and roughly figured in Halstead's very rare volume of 'Genealogies' (see *Drayton*, Rte. 1), and are reproduced in Baker's History (vol. ii.). In the centre of the chancel stood the altar-tomb, with effigies, of Sir Thomas Green (d. 1391) and wife. This tomb was broken up in 1826. The lower part of the knight's figure was destroyed. The upper part is placed upright within an arch in the N. aisle, and in front, under the same arch, is laid the figure of the lady. She has the horned head-dress, and wears a collar of SS. On the N. side of the chancel was the altar-tomb, with brasses, of Sir Thomas Green (d. 1417) and wife. The tomb is gone. The brass of the lady (Mary Talbot) is laid on the floor, under the eastern arch. At the east end of the north aisle was the tomb, with *brasses*, of another Sir Thomas (died 1457) and wife. These have utterly vanished. Again, in the chancel, side by side with that first mentioned, was the altar-tomb of Sir Thomas Green, who died in 1462, and his wife. The tomb has been destroyed. The covering slab with its fine *brasses* is placed on the floor. The relics of these interesting monuments deserve the attention of the antiquary, who will probably find his affection for restorers and beautifiers by no means increased by a visit to Green's Norton. The ch. contains two mural monuments for John Hicklinge (d. 1558), and William his son (d. 1606).

Proceeding toward Weedon, l. of the road (3½ m. from Towcester) is *Cold Higham*, on high ground, commanding very wide views N. and S. The church tower (late E. Eng., the lower part may be earlier) has a gabled or "pack-saddle" roof, of the same character as those at Maidford and at Thorpe Mandeville. In the S. chapel is an alabaster altar-tomb, bearing the wooden effigy (which does not belong to it) of a cross-legged knight, probably of Sir John de Pateshull, died 1350. [2 m. W. of Cold Higham is *Lichborough*, with a Perp. and Dec. ch., containing both

a mural monument and an altar-tomb with effigy for Sir John Nedham (d. 1618). The monumental tablet declares that,

"This worthy knight, subdued by death,
Is happy made by loss of breath."

In front of the tomb below is an inscription recording that Sir John was Gentleman Pensioner to Queen Elizabeth and to James I., "and was by them both well esteemed, and likewise by other noble persons of the best ranke and qualitie." On the staircase of *Lichborough House* (A. W. Grant, Esq.) is a full-length portrait of Sir John Nedham, in armour and white hose, with plumed hat and staff of office. Among the rectors of Lichborough were William Peters, R.A., once well known as an artist, in which capacity he gave to the world such performances as "the Resurrection of a pious family,"—and James Douglas, author of the 'Nænia Britannica,' completed in 1793. In the parish of *Farthingstone*, N.W. of Lichborough, and at the west end of Farthingstone Wood, is *Castle Dykes*, a large and irregular entrenchment, occupying about 13 acres. It is surrounded by a single ditch, and an outer bank or vallum. A deep ditch intersects it, and produces two nearly equal divisions. In the centre of the northern division is a circular mound or keep; and the whole arrangement seems to suggest the defences of a "strength" or fortified house earlier than the Conquest. A tower of stone was built on the mound at a later period, and fragments of masonry have been found there. The view from this site is very extensive. A short distance S.W. of it is a field called *Castle Yard*, with traces of a square entrenchment. When Pennant visited it about 1780 there was a tradition that a "town" had formerly stood there.]

The church of *Pattishall*, rt. of the road, 4 m. from Towcester, has Norm. and E. Eng. portions. The tower was rebuilt in 1663. The ch. itself was restored in 1871. There is nothing about it which calls for much notice. For *Stowe-nine-Churches*, l. of the road (6 m.), and one of the most interesting churches in the county, see Rte. 4.

Leaving Towcester, the next *station* is

Blakesley, where the country is pleasant and much wooded. The church, late Perp., has been restored. It contains the small *brass* of Matthew Swetenham, d. 1416, bowbearer of Henry IV. The figure is in plain plate-armour. In this parish was the small Northamptonshire property, consisting only of a house and a few "yardlands," of Dryden, the poet. As we approach

Morton Pinkeney Stat., the church of that village is seen l.; and rt., among trees, the square tower of *Canons Ashby*, one of the most interesting places in the county. The church and house of Canons Ashby are hardly 1 m. from the station. Some churches worth attention may be visited in a drive across the country from Morton Pinkeney to Banbury.

(*a*) In the village of Morton Pinkeney observe a fine house built of yellow and red sandstone, arranged in stripes, the date 1616; besides a somewhat similar house with a very steep roof, date about 1700. The villages in this part of the country abound in Tudor houses, well built and picturesque, the type of which, or portions of it, was followed to a much later period. This "Morton" was named from the Pinkeney family, to whom the manor belonged, and who had the head of their great "honour" at Weedon Pinkeney, or Weedon Lois, one of the adjoining parishes (see *post*).

The manor came at last to Copes and Candlers, and through the latter family to the present owner, Baroness Sempill. The *manor-house*, adjoining the church, has Tudor and perhaps earlier portions; but in 1860 it was nearly rebuilt, with very picturesque, if somewhat anomalous, result. It contains a few portraits of interest. The *Church* well deserves a visit. The nave arcade is Transition; the chancel E. E., but rebuilt in 1845 precisely on the original plan. It was from this chancel that the design was taken for the older part of Littlemore Chapel, near Oxford, built by John Henry Newman, and that of the chancel of Holdenby Church; and the graceful proportions and arrangement commend the choice. The western tower is also E. E. and curious. It is low, and set back in three stages, with angle shafts.

Morton is a good specimen of a Northamptonshire village, generally marked in this part of the country by great irregularity, high gables, Tudor windows, and striped stonework (the iron stone and oolite are used in alternate courses). There is almost always a green, with a fine tree in the midst, usually a great elm.

[About 1 m. E. of Morton Pinkeney is *Plumpton*, where the church, rebuilt in 1822, is without interest. The parish adjoins that of *Weedon Lois*, or *Weedon Pinkeney*. St. Loy's (Eligius) Well here is called by Morton, the "chief (well) of all the western part of the county. Even blind and leprous people, as tradition tells us, it infallibly cured." The site is still pointed out, but the spring is neglected. After the conquest this place became the head of the honour or barony of the Pinkeneys, whose ancestor, as we learn from Domesday, was "Ghilo, brother of Ansculf." Ansculf himself appears in the same survey as "Ansculf de Pinchengi," or "Pinkeni;" and this surname was retained by his brother's descendants. They continued here until 1301, when Henry de Pinkeney sold his barony to the King Edw. I. It has since passed through many hands. There was a small Benedictine Priory here, founded by Ghilo de Pinkeney, and at first attached as a cell to the Abbey of St. Lucien, near Beauvais. In 1392 it was transferred to the English house of Bittlesden. There are no remains of the Priory; but it stood in what is now known as Church Close; and a mound on the village-green marks the site of a so-called castle of the Pinkeneys. The church, partly E. E., contains a Norm. font. One of its vicars, William Losse, successfully defended himself in the belfry, and on the roofs, against a body of Parliamentarian troopers, sent to carry him to Northampton. At *Weston Hall* (Miss Hutchinson), there are a few family portraits.]

(*b*) *Canons Ashby* (Sir Hen. Dryden, Bart.), lies to the N. of Morton Station.

Before visiting the *Church* and *house*, which are here the objects of interest, it will be well to rehearse briefly the history of both.

A Priory of Augustinian Canons was founded at Ashby (the "bye" or village of the ash-trees), probably before the time of Stephen de Ley (Thurleigh in Bedfordshire), who is, however, the earliest known benefactor. He was lord of the manor temp. Hen. II. The house prospered moderately, and at the Dissolution, the annual value was rather more than 147*l.* None of the Priors seem to have been personages of great importance. (The Chartulary of Canons Ashby remains in the possession of R. Orlebar, Esq., of Hinwick, in Bedfordshire.) The site and demesne lands were granted in 1537 to Sir Francis Bryan, and in the following year they were alienated to John Cope, afterwards knighted. His descendant, Thomas Cope, in 1665, sold Ashby to Gerard Usher,

who in the same year transferred the place to Sir Robert Dryden; in which family it has since remained. The Drydens were already possessed of some property in the parish, where they first appear (coming from Cumberland) toward the middle of the 16th cent. John Dryden, or Dreyden, as the name was then written, married the daughter of Sir John Cope, of Canons Ashby. It is generally asserted that their son, Erasmus Dryden, was named after the great scholar of Rotterdam, who had been a friend of his father; but the name appears at an earlier date as that of his uncle, eldest son of Sir John Cope. This Erasmus Dryden was created a baronet in 1619. His third son, also an Erasmus, was of Tichmarsh (see Rte. 2), and was father of "Glorious John." After a succession of 7 baronets, Sir John Dryden died *sine prole* in 1770, devising his estates to his niece Elizabeth, who married John Turner (son of Sir Edward Turner, of Ambroseden, in Oxfordshire), who thereupon took the name and arms of Dryden, and in 1795 was created a baronet. The present Sir Henry Dryden is the 4th baronet of this succession.

The *Church* of the Priory, now little more than a private chapel (there is no endowment of any sort), stands on the road from the station to the house, and may first be visited. It is only a portion of the building, and consists of nave (part of which is used as a chancel), north aisle, and a tower attached to the N. side of the aisle, 27 ft. square (outside), and 93 ft. high, including pinnacles. The western doorway and the arcade on each side of it may date from about 1250. The W. window is an insertion, circ. 1450. The tower was built about 1350, and there was a porch of very peculiar construction in the angle between the tower and aisle. The 2 arches with their piers, which divide nave and aisle are E. E., and of about the same date as the western front. The exterior arcade on either side of the door is excellent; as fine as any similar work of its period which remains. The arcade along the base of the tower is Dec., and later. It has shafts without caps. The tower itself is very massive, and is of good ashlar, inside and out. One of the pinnacles is original; the others were built in the 17th cent. In the tower chamber is a large assemblage of tiles and fragments discovered from time to time on the site of the monastic buildings. There are *brasses* for (apparently) the first John Dryden; and Sir Erasmus Dryden, the first baronet. The brass of John Dryden is small and without inscription, but seems to be that referred to in his will, where he describes himself as "being assured that he is the elect of God;" and adds, "Although I doe not allow of pomp in burialls, yet for some reasonable considerations, I will that the stone that I have already prepared shall be laid upon my grave, and my arms and my wyve's graven in brasse thereupon." There are also monuments for Sir Robert Dryden, d. 1708; for Sir John Turner Dryden, d. 1818, and (by *L. Rossi*) for his father, the first baronet of that creation, d. 1797.

The domestic buildings of the Priory were on the S. side of the church, and were converted into a dwelling-house by Sir John Cope, d. 1558. Before 1600, however, this was divided into 2 farm-houses, and so continued after the purchase by the Drydens, till the whole was taken down in 1710. A small portion of the gateway into the close may be found 86 ft. N. by W. of the church, and the former E. end of the church is marked by a break of the ground in the ch.-yard, showing that the total length was about 217 ft. In a field E. of the gateway is a *well*, known as the "Nor-well." The grant to the monks for its enclosure

is dated in 1253; and the small stone structure over the spring may very well be of that date. A large reservoir adjoins the well, and pipes from it were carried under the pavement of the church to the monastic buildings.

The present *house* of Canons Ashby is, in part, that which was built by the first John Dryden, who married the daughter of Sir John Cope. It is, however, a pile of various dates —the tower being earlier than the time of this John Dryden, whilst the hall was built by him, and very great changes in the house were made before 1708–1710, when the old monastic buildings (Sir John Cope's house) were taken down, and the stone work used here. The house encloses a quadrangle, with wings projecting 12 ft. beyond the N.W. face. The tower, 50 ft. high, is on the S.W. side of the quadrangle. The front entrance is on the N. W. face, from the "green court," into the hall. The offices are at the N.E. end of the hall. The quadrangle, small as it is (52 ft. by 37 ft.), is very picturesque. The hall-doors bear the arms of John Dryden, and must be of the same age as the hall, built between his marriage in 1551 and his death in 1584. This is a striking apartment, happily "unrestored," hung with old armour and weapons belonging to the time of the civil wars, and probably once used by the retainers of Sir John Dryden. There is here also a bust of the poet, which is said to have served as a model for that placed in Westminster Abbey. The principal apartments are on the garden front of the house. These are:—the *dining-room*, said to have been entirely floored and wainscoted with the timber of a single oak, which grew on the estate. In it are portraits of Sir William Cornwallis, temp. Elizabeth; Elizabeth Cornwallis, wife of Edward Allen, in the character of Diana; Elizabeth Allen, wife of Edward Dryden; and very fine crayon drawings of Mrs. Creed (the "cousin" to whom the poet writes (see *Tichmarsh*, Rte. 2), and of the poet himself. The *library* opposite contains among its treasures a first folio of 'Shakespeare,' a curious volume of theology which may have belonged to the Priory, and several letters to and from Sir John Dryden (1640–58), besides one from the poet. Over the library is the *drawing-room*, with a very remarkable ceiling, coved and enriched, and a chimney-piece of similar character. This was the work of Sir John Dryden (1632–1658); so that the tradition which asserts that the room was thus fitted for the reception of Anne of Denmark, who died in 1619, falls to the ground. The apartment opposite the drawing-room (30 ft. by 20 ft.) is hung with tapestry. Many other rooms contain tapestry, mostly of the 17th cent. From the top of the tower there is a very wide and striking view, extending over all this richly wooded portion of the country, to the borders of Oxford and Warwickshire on one side, and on the other to the forest heights of Whittlebury and Wakefield.

The evidently unbroken antiquity of the house, and the absence of all attempt at modern restoration, give Canons Ashby an interest which is altogether wanting to many a more famous mansion; and this feeling is not a little aided by the quiet beauty of the gardens, to which a doorway opens from the tower. Very fine old cedars spread their arms over flights of moss-grown steps, flanked by low walls of grey stone; and terrace after terrace, with lines of clipped yews, descends to gates, opening to a broad, grassy avenue. Beyond, distant views of the country are caught between groups of trees. On one side is the church; on the other the deer park, the venison from which is of much reputation. The tone and colouring of the whole scene are, under certain lights, so beautiful, that

it is only to be wondered that so few artists seem to have discovered the charm of Canons Ashby. The gateway pillars were made, and the gardens were much altered, about 1710. They are still much the same, however, as when Samuel Richardson, the novelist, paced them during his frequent visits here. It is said that much of 'Sir Charles Grandison' was written at such times; and it will be remembered that the home of Harriet Byron—where resided the "venerable circle" to whom she addressed her voluminous letters—is named in the novel "Ashby Canons." Another friend of the Drydens, according to the gossiping Aubrey ('Lives of Eminent Men') was the poet Spenser. There was a room in the house, he tells us, called "Mr. Spenser's chamber,"—and his wife (daughter of William Wilkes of Hodnell) was a kinswoman of Frances, wife of Sir Erasmus Dryden. It does not appear that John Dryden the poet was much at Canons Ashby. There is no reference to any visit here in his own letters; but we may believe, if we choose, that "as the poet certainly courted his cousin Honor Dryden, the eldest daughter of the then baronet . . . . the old clipped yews and formal terrace and walled courtyard, which yet remain, have looked upon the light-hearted pair as they strolled along in that cousinly flirtation, so presumptuous in the eyes of Sir John, who saw nothing but a poor cadet in the future author of 'St. Cecilia's Day.'"—*James.* It should here be added that the present kitchen garden, called the "Vineyard Garden" was probably the garden of the Priory; and that the small close adjoining it, having on two sides the "Canon's walk," was perhaps the monastic orchard.

In April, 1644, a party of Parliamentarian infantry sent from Northampton to collect money in this neighbourhood took up their quarters in Sir John Dryden's house. A larger body of Royalists approaching from Banbury, the others secured themselves in the church of Canons Ashby, the door of which was forced by a petard. The Parliamentarians then took refuge in the tower, which they defended for two hours, but at last surrendered, and were all carried prisoners to Banbury.

[At *Adston*, 2 m. N., is a small chapel of the 14th cent. with a very good arcade; the chancel was added circ. 1845. The hamlet is picturesque and contains an old manor-house with clipped yews in front. The Harbys were long lords of the manor. The tower of *Maidford* ch. (1 m. N. E.) is gabled, and is one of the best examples in the district of this peculiar roofing. There are others at Thorpe Mandeville (see *post*) and elsewhere. Maidford tower may be of the 14th cent. The ch. has E. E. portions.]

(*c*). The expedition from Morton Pinkeney to Banbury will take us through a broken, up-and-down country, with occasional fine views. The road at first lies along a portion of Banbury Lane, a very ancient trackway (which the Romans scarcely adopted) running across this part of England in a direction from S.W. to N.E. It follows high and low ground indifferently. At about 2 m. from Morton we reach *Culworth*, where the church has been "restored," but is of no very great interest. There are many modern windows of stained glass; and the pulpit is of carved work, temp. Jas. I. In the village is the base of a cross raised on many steps; the dilapidated manor-house, long the residence of the Danvers family, and showing portions of Tudor chimneys and gables; and a curious sign, carved in stone, over an old grocer's shop, having, within a squared border, a sugar-loaf and a "whisk" or small broom. The whole

is locally described as a "spickett and fossett." (For a notice of the so-called "Culworth gang" of highwaymen, see *Sulgrave*, Rte. 6).

Berry Mount Hill, in a close N. of the ch.-yd., marks, according to a tradition of the place, the site of a castle held by a family which was named from the manor (de Culworth) and continued here until the reign of Edw. I.; but a careful examination may perhaps show that these mounds, of which there are several in the neighbourhood, were those of fortified houses older than the Conquest.

From Culworth a drive of two miles brings us to *Thorpe Mandeville*, finely situated on high and broken ground, commanding wide views over a richly wooded country. The place is named from the Mandevilles, its early possessors (they sold it temp. Edw. I.). The church is the sole object of interest here, and that only on account of its tower, which has a gabled or "pack-saddle" roof. The gable rises flush with the W. wall. On the other sides it is set inward, and there is a passage round. The whole may be Dec. In the ch.-yd. is a grand old yew-tree; and in a field W. of the church some mounds mark the site of the old manor-house belonging to the Kirtons. This house was strengthened and garrisoned by Cromwell, who was first cousin of Mrs. Kirton; and the mounds were thrown up by him. A pleasant, hilly district, affording occasional wide views towards Banbury, extends to *Middleton Cheney* (3 m.), where is one of the best churches in this part of Northamptonshire, well deserving a visit. Ralph de Chenduit (corrupted into Cheney) was the son of Ralph, the Norman lord of Middleton at the time of the Domesday survey; and his descendants remained here until the accession of Edw. I. The church is Dec. with a fine Perp. W. tower. It was restored (1865) by *Sir G. G. Scott*; and the chancel has since been decorated, and stained glass inserted, by *Morris and Marshall*. The nave arcade, of 4 bays on either side, is very good and graceful, having stones of two colours—dark blue marl, and the local whitish oolite, in the arches. The sculptures at the ends of the hood mouldings deserve notice. Among them occurs the wyvern crest of Thomas of Lancaster, the "mighty Earl," beheaded at Pontefract in 1322. Here, therefore, we have some clue to the date of the church; and as William of Edyngdon (afterwards Bp. of Winchester) was rector of Middleton between 1327 and 1345, we may fairly suppose that some part of the structure is due to him, who was everywhere a great builder. The general character is early Dec.; but the E. window, of which the tracery is very light and graceful, is so peculiar as to imply a designer of unusual skill, such as Edyngdon. On the S. side of the chancel arch is a great buttress, rendered necessary by a chapel added to the S. aisle in the late Dec. period. This weakened the main wall. The clerestory is Perp. and the S. porch is a late Dec. addition. It has a sharply pitched stone roof, with an inner arch, the space between which and the roof is filled with flamboyant tracery. Remark a curious niche, with square opening, on the E. side. There is a similar porch in the neighbouring church of *Chalcomb* (see *post*). The wooden doors may be Perp., as is the fine *tower*. This has a largely developed parapet, with 8 pinnacles —a peculiar feature; 4 are at the angles of the parapet, and 4 at the base of the lofty spire which rises from the tower. The west door is much enriched. Angels are laid into the hollow of the cornice; and in niches on either side are the Blessed Virgin and the angel Ga-

briel. On one of the bells (date 1639) is the inscription—

"Let Aaron's bells continually be rung,
The word still preached, and an Hallelujah sung."

The modern glass and the enrichments of the chancel are very good, and deserve attention.

The Chenduits alienated Middleton to the Bp. of Rochester, who long possessed the manor, and who may be supposed to have had some hand in the building of so fine a ch. The advowson now belongs to Brasenose College, Oxford.

In the ch.-yd. is an elaborate monument by *Earp* for members of the Horton family, erected in 1869. A fragment of a Tudor house adjoins; and in the village is (or was) a house on the timbers of which appears a dog-tooth moulding—though its date is uncertain. There was a fight in the "town field" of Middleton, May 6, 1643, between the Earl of Northampton's cavalry and a large body of Parliamentarians, who were meditating an attack on Banbury. The latter were utterly defeated.

[*Chalcomb Church*, restored 1856, lies about 2 m. N.W. of Middleton. It is late Dec. The porch is smaller than that of Middleton, but of similar character. The font is late Norm. circular, with intersecting arches as decorations round it. *Chalcomb Priory* (Mrs. Cornwallis) marks the site of a small house of Augustinian Canons founded in the reign of John. There are in the offices some very slight remains of old work.]

At about 3 m. from Middleton the road crosses the Cherwell, and we enter *Banbury*. (See *Handbook for Oxfordshire*.)

[An excursion to Warkworth, King's Sutton, and Aynho may best be made from Banbury. These places lie close on the border of the county, which is here divided from Oxfordshire by the course of the Cherwell.

The *Church* of *Warkworth*, 1½ m. from Banbury, although much injured by at least one restoration, well deserves a visit, if only for the sake of its monuments. The upper story of the tower and the wall of the N. aisle were rebuilt in 1841; and, among other atrocities then committed, all the brasses in the church except two, were thrown away and disregarded until the builder, greatly to his credit, buried them for security under a flagstone in the nave, where they still remain. A second restoration was completed in 1869. The chancel was then rebuilt, a new vestry and S. porch were added, and the whole building was newly roofed. The nave arcade (almost the only ancient portion remaining) is E. Eng. Some open seats of the 15th cent. have also been preserved; and are curious from the Latin inscriptions (from the Psalms and the Creed) at the backs. The ancient lords of Warkworth were Lyons, Chetwodes, and Holmans. Of the *monuments* which have happily escaped destruction the earliest belong to the Lyons, and are a cross-legged effigy of a knight in a hauberk of chain-mail, temp. Ed. II.; a lady, of the same date, with veil and wimple; and the very fine altar-tomb of the last Sir John Lyons, living 1346. The tomb is unusually high and narrow, and has the arms of Lyons and other families along the sides. The effigy affords an excellent example of the military costume of the time of Edw. III. The manner in which the moustache is made to curl over the open helmet is a usual feature of the period. Here are also *brasses* (not buried) for John Chetwode (d. 1420) and for Amabilla, wife of Sir John Chetwode and afterwards of Sir Thomas Strange, d. 1430. She wears the horned headdress, with a long, open mantle. The buried brasses are

those of the husband of Amabilla, d. 1412, and called in the inscription 'Mons. John Chetwode, Chivaler, qe. morust en la veile de Seint Richard;' Margery Chetwode, d. 1420; and William Ludsthorp, d. 1454.

The manor-house of Warkworth, ancient and stately, was pulled down in 1810. We proceed by cross roads to *King's Sutton* (about 3 m. Here is a *station* on the G. W. Rly. between Oxford and Banbury; and here will be a *junction* with the line in course of construction (1877), running from Banbury to Cheltenham). This was the head of an enormous parish, the earlier history of which it would be well worth while to trace, since it included within its range the town of Buckingham with its hamlets on the east, and Horley and Hornton in Oxfordshire on the west, thus giving a "stretch" of between 20 and 30 m. It was not until the 15th cent. that either Buckingham or the Oxfordshire chapelry was erected into a distinct vicarage. Sutton was part of the royal demesne from a period before the Conquest to 1156. It is probable therefore that the great extent of the parish marks it as little cultivated, and as having been, if not actual "royal forest," yet, in the main, wooded hunting ground. In 1156 the king had granted it to Richard Camville; whose daughter Idonea married William Longespé, son of the first Longespé, Earl of Salisbury. The manor of Sutton passed through various hands until it was bought in 1735 by the then Attorney-General, Sir John Willes, afterwards Lord Chief Justice. In his family it remains. There was also a prebendal manor, granted by Henry I. to the church of Lincoln; and the prebend thus formed was the richest of any in the kingdom except that of Masham in Yorkshire. This golden stall of "Sutton, cum Buckingham, Horley, and Hornton," was surrendered to the crown temp. Edw. VI. Under these circumstances we are not surprised to find a fine church at Sutton. The spire is a landmark throughout the district. Much of the church is early Perp., but the arcade is Norm., and the sedilia—six stalls divided by circular columns with plain capitals—on either side of the chancel have E. Eng. shafts. (The semicircular arches are conjectural restorations by *Scott*). The tower and spire, however, with the west front of the church, are the finest portions. These are early Perp. The tower has at each angle a pinnacle with crocketed canopy and finial 18 ft. high, from which springs a flying buttress intersected in its progress to the spire by another pinnacle, similar in design to the outer one, but 7 ft. higher. The effect is to give great richness to the base of the spire, which rises to a height of 100 ft. above the tower, with crocketed ribs, and a band of ornament more than half-way up. Below the parapet of the tower, in the centre of each side, is one of the Evangelistic emblems. The whole church was "repaired" in 1842. In 1866 the chancel was restored by *Sir G. G. Scott*. Memorial windows for members of the Willes family have been inserted; and an oaken screen designed by Scott, separates the nave from the chancel. The ancient font is Norm. hexagonal, and of great size. It is now in the S. porch, the font in use being modern. The sole monument worth notice is for members of the Freke family, by *Bacon, jun.* It represents the triumph of the Saviour over death. (The life-sized figure of the Saviour is very fine, and contrasts remarkably with the inferior work of the rest of the design). Of this church the father of William Lisle Bowles was for some time vicar; and the poet was born here in 1762.

The *Manor-House* (Mrs. Willes) is a picturesque gabled mansion, on the S. side of the ch.-yd. There is a story that Charles I. was "at some

time" concealed in it; but this can only be one of the floating civil war traditions of which this part of the country is full. The house contains some interesting family portraits, including one of Lord Chief Justice Willes, by *Jarvis*. There are also full-lengths of George II., Frederick Prince of Wales, and Augusta, Princess of Wales—presents from the Prince to the Chief Justice.

At an early period King's Sutton was rendered illustrious by the birth of a saint. This was St. Rumwold, or St. Rumbald, not to be confounded with the Irish saint of the same name, the patron of Mechlin. The St. Rumbald of Sutton is the son of the King of Northumbria, by a daughter of Penda of Mercia. He was born in 662; was baptized by Bp. Widerinus (?), lived 3 days, died at Sutton, and was buried there. During those three days, however, this least of the saints discoursed, in Fuller's words, "of all the common places of Popery," having been gifted with speech from his birth, at which he cried aloud three times, "I am a Christian." It is said, too, that he had been moved to Brackley for one day of his life, and that he preached there. Thither his body was afterwards translated by the mysterious Widerinus, and thence it was removed to Buckingham, where it attracted hosts of pilgrims. At King's Sutton, St. Rumbald had a well and a chapel; the latter "defaced and taken down" when Leland wrote. His well was that afterwards known as *Astrop Well*, a medicinal spring, said to have been discovered about 1664, and at one time much frequented by visitors, who had balls, cards, and "ordinaries," after the fashion of other watering-places. All this has passed away since the beginning of the present century; although the water, strongly impregnated with iron, no doubt retains all its former efficiency. The road which passed the well was diverted about 1866, by consent of the parish, on condition that a facsimile of the old building should be placed by the new road side, and that the water should be conveyed thither in pipes. This has been done, but with indifferent success. *Astrop House* (Sir W. R. Brown, Bart.) stands in a picturesque park, and was originally built by Chief Justice Willes. It has been enlarged by its present owner.

There are some tumuli in this parish, known as the "Lows;" and in a field, called "Black Lands piece," many rude cists have been found, containing skeletons. Roman coins have also been found, and in such quantities that it is said they were carried away in buckets. They are known in the village as "Blackland pence."

[2 m. N.E. of King's Sutton is *Newbottle* (*botl* = a house, A. S.). The hill behind the church commands a very wide view, in which are included the three spires, locally celebrated as "Adderbury for strength, Bloxham for length, and King's Sutton for beauty." The two former are in Oxfordshire. Newbottle *Church* has Norm. portions, but is chiefly of the 14th cent.; the tower of the 15th. The manor-house is the residence of T. L. Cartwright, Esq. On a hill adjoining the hamlet of Charlton (1 m. beyond Newbottle church), in this parish, is *Rainsborough Camp*, an irregular oval, enclosing about 6 acres. There are 2 valla, with a deep wide fosse between; the entrances nearly opposite, E. and W. Roman coins have been found here; and whatever the origin of the work may have been, it is tolerably certain that it was held by the Romans. The wall which surrounds the camp is modern. The name may be identical with that of Ravensburgh, the great earthwork near Dunstable. See *Handbook for Bedfordshire*, Rte. 4.]

A drive of 2½ m. (or a short rly. journey—there is a *station* at Aynho) brings us to *Aynho* (*how* = a hill, A. S.; the meaning of the first part of the word is uncertain). Here is a fine church tower (63 ft. in height) of late Dec. curvilinear) character. The composition of the W. door and window over it well deserves notice. What would otherwise be the central light of the window contains a stone niche, with canopy. The buttresses are set angularly, and in the face of each is a canopied niche for a figure. The church itself was rebuilt "in the Grecian style" in 1723. It adjoins *Aynho Park* (W. C. Cartwright, Esq., M.P.), a large mansion built on the site of the manor-house, burnt down by the Royalists in 1645. It stands pleasantly in a deer park; and fine views are commanded over part of Oxfordshire, from which county the park is divided by a small feeder of the Cherwell. The house contains some good pictures, among which are five or six *Murillos*, including an "Assumption of the Virgin," and "Our Lord appearing in vision to St. Antony of Padua;" a *Vandervelde*, a *Backhuysen*, and two portraits assigned to *Rubens*. There are several other portraits, among them the first and second Lords Fairfax, and the third, the Parliamentary general. There are numerous portraits of Cartwrights and Crewes, Lord Chancellor Eldon, by *Lawrence*, and Mrs. Desaguliers, by *Hogarth*. This lady was the daughter of John Blackwood, Esq. (by whom the pictures were collected), and grandmother of the present owner. Bronzes and vases, and a fine library are also among the treasures of Aynho, which estate Richard Cartwright bought of Shakerley Marmion in 1615. (This was the father of Shakerley Marmion, the dramatist, born here in 1602. The Portway, an ancient road traversing Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire, passes through the park of Aynho, but has been partially levelled and reduced to a walled-in pathway. A skeleton, with the legs gathered up, was found in a rude stone cist by the workmen when levelling the Portway. There are chalybeate springs here; and the great oolite is here intersected by a liassic outlyer, with fuller's earth and ironstone. [The church of *Croughton*, 2 m. E. of Aynho, contains Norm. and E. E. portions.]

We return to the station at Morton Pinckney; and proceed through a country pleasantly wooded, but without any striking features, to

Byfield Stat. The spire of the church is seen rt., and round it extends a straggling but picturesque village, with the principal farmhouses of the parish gathered into it after the usual fashion of the county; the whole scattered among groups of trees. Byfield stands on a broken plain, from which hills rise toward Daventry on one side, and toward Banbury on the other. The *Church* (ded. to the Holy Cross) well deserves a visit. It dates throughout between the years 1350 and 1400, but has more of late Dec. character than of Perp. The tower and spire are the latest portions. The whole expression, especially of the nave (interior, is very dignified; the dark colour of the local stone (the ironstone of the lias) contributing much to the effect. The clerestory lights are now Perp., but they have replaced circular windows with quatrefoils (placed unusually over the piers instead of over the arches), of which traces remain. A fine lofty arch opens to the tower. The chancel is much developed, with long, narrow windows, having peculiar tracery, and nearly flat headings. At the W. end of the S. side is a low window, still called the Leper's window,

square-headed. The E. window is modern, designed by *A. Hartshorne*, under whose care the whole church was restored in 1871. There is some very good woodwork; and the bench ends (not carved out of the solid, as in Devonshire) are noticeable. There are no monuments. The ground slopes from the W. door, thus giving additional apparent height to the tower, which, with the spire, rises to 140 ft. It is in five stages, diminishing toward the top, and has multangular embattled turrets at the angles, which would seem heavy but for the height at which they are placed. The W. doorway is richly moulded, and adorned with the ball-flower. There are also on this front three niches, with elaborate canopies. The S. porch, which projects considerably, resembles the tower; and the so-called Trafford aisle on the same side serves as a transept. This was apparently an addition. Trafford is an insulated portion of the parish, forming a distinct manor, which has been in various hands.

[The village of *Woodford*, 2 m. W., has a church worth notice, with an E. E. arcade on the N. side, and a Dec. S. There is some good woodwork, like that at Byfield.]

From Byfield an expedition may be made to Daventry (7 m.), visiting Charwelton and Preston Capes by the way; and to Banbury (9 m.), visiting Chipping Warden and Edgcott. Byfield itself stands (in part) on the old turnpike-road, running from Daventry to Banbury; and this border of Northamptonshire has a quiet beauty of its own, which has already been noticed in Rte. 4. The scenery has no grand or very impressive features; but, especially where the hills overlook Warwickshire and the great central plain of England, there is an old-fashioned home-like charm in the country, which is full of attraction.

(*a*) In proceeding to Daventry, about 2 m. from Byfield, the road crosses the infant stream of the Cherwell, that "water lilied" riveret, as Drayton calls it, which falls into the Isis at Oxford, and is so pleasantly remembered by all Oxford men. The true "Cherwell"—the "well" or spring which is the main source of the river—rises in the cellar of Cherwell house, a farm or grange about ½ m. left of the road. At the corner of the farmyard it forms a head, and a sufficient quantity of water is occasionally gathered to render necessary the ancient bridge over which the old road passed, and which remains by the side of the new one. It has two sharply-pointed arches, with an angular projection or "cutwater" between; and may well be of the early date (about 1250) assigned to it. The famous Crowland Bridge (see the present Handbook, *Northants*, Rte. 2) may be compared. The masonry of this on the Cherwell is good and massive. It is locally said to be the "highest bridge in England;" a "hard saying," which may be connected with a general belief that this part of Northamptonshire is the "highest ground" in England. (See *Naseby*, Rte. 8.) The village and *Church* of *Charwelton* lie rt. of the road. The Perp. church is interesting. The nave arcade on the N. side has continuous mouldings, without capitals, running to the bases of the piers. On the S. the arches are lower, and have octagonal piers with plain capitals. There are some good tombs and brasses, chiefly of the Andrew family, who for a long period held lands in Charwelton, under the abbot and convent of Thorney. (1) The earliest of these is the fine *brass* of Thomas Andrew, "Mercator," and his wife, daughter and heiress of Richard Clarell. This Thomas Andrew died in 1496; but the date on the brass is incomplete, and it is probable that it was pre-

pared in his lifetime. He is in a close merchant's gown, bordered with ermine, as is the lady's robe. Above the rich canopy are two angels kneeling by the shield of Andrew. Below are lines which partly run, "En Thome ossa Andrewe hec continet fossa, De terra facta protinus in terram redacta, Civibus sanctorum me jungat rex Angelorum." Below again are small figures of sons and daughters. The whole brass is curious, and may have been the work of some local engraver. (2) Thomas Andrew, son of the former Thomas, and wife. She died 1490, he circ. 1530. The brass is, however, of the former date. He is described as "generosus," and is in a suit of tournament armour. There are curious lines, as on the brass of his father, and the work must be by the same engraver. (3) Thomas Andrew, "armiger," son of the former, d. 1541, and wife. He is in plate-armour. This brass is much smaller than the others. (4) In the N. chapel is a fine altar-tomb, with effigies of Sir Thomas Andrew (d. 1563) and two wives. He is in plate-armour, bare-headed, and wears a collar of SS. On panels at the sides of the tomb are arms and quarterings of Andrew. (5) On the western wall of the N. aisle is a lofty mural monument, of Reigate stone, for Thomas Andrew, "Esq.," and two wives. This was erected in 1590. Thomas Andrew himself died in 1594. There are figures of husband, wives, and twelve children, in various attitudes; the whole so well and freely designed, and displaying a "naturalism" so rare in English monumental sculpture of the period, that it has been suggested the work may be that of some Italian artist. The progress marked in the inscriptions on the brasses—mercator, generosus, armiger, miles—is noticeable, as indicating the gradual rise of the family. Close to the church is *Bittlesden* manor-house (so called from the land here having belonged to Bittlesden Abbey, in Bucks), partly built by the family of Adams, which was here between 1630 and 1702. It contains some curious wainscoting, with grotesque figures, which seem to be of Flemish workmanship. The church stands nearly a mile from the village of Lower Charwelton; and John Rous, in his 'Historia Regum,' written temp. Hen. VII., laments that persons travelling toward London from Warwick no longer found a harbour at Church Charwelton, since the place had been depopulated by enclosure of land. They were obliged to pass through Lower Charwelton.

[On the rt. from Charwelton, across a tract of wooded country, is seen the church of *Preston Capes* (restored), on its hill. It is of some interest; the S. arcade dating from about 1200, the N. from 1300; while the rest of the building is Perp. The tower seems to be an addition, since it is joined to the segment of an arch. The ground falls very steeply to the W.; and, after the completion of the nave, it was perhaps found that there was not room for the tower without the destruction of the half arch. Remark the stoup in the porch. (One remains also at *Edgcott*, see *post*.) The view from the ch.-yd. is very beautiful, extending over much broken ground to the park and woods of Fawsley (see Rte. 4). The contrast between all this side of the county, so richly wooded (there are extensive woods, and although the grass fields are generally large, trees are always left in the hedges for shelter), and so various in outline, with the eastern portion and the long valley of the Nen, becomes very marked when the traveller, fresh from the heights in that direction, overlooks the scene from such a "vantage ground" as this at Preston. On a hill near the

church stood a castle said to have been built by Hugh de Leycestre, the recorded Domesday lord. He also founded a priory here, which he afterwards moved to Daventry (see Rte. 4). Of the castle only the keep mound remains; and this may very well be of earlier date than the Conquest, and mark the site of an English "strong" house. The Roman or Romanized *Portway* running between Benaventa (Daventry) and Ælia Castra (Alcester in Oxfordshire), passed through this parish, and some traces are to be found near the hill S. of the church.]

There are good views on the main road between Charwelton and Daventry, with the high ground l. on which the camp of Arbury is situated (see Rte. 4), Fawsley on the rt., and then the picturesque village of Badby. These places, and others near them, are described in Rte. 4. The remarkable rounded hill which appears as we approach Daventry is the "foxhylle" of the A. S. charter of Staverton, noticed in the same route.

(*b*) *Eydon* (3 m.) may be visited from Byfield (remark the fine view toward Byfield from the ridge called Eydon Moor). The village of Eydon is pretty, with many old houses among trees. The church has Trans.-Norm. portions (as the pier at W. end of N. arcade); and a Dec. arcade on the S. side; but the greater part is modern, and due to a restoration and enlargement in 1865. There is a curious and much enriched Norm. font, and in the vestry a very mutilated stone effigy of a lady, one of the Wake family, temp. Edw. II. *Eydon Hall* (Col. Cartwright) was built by the Annesleys about 1780. (The design, by Lewis, is engraved in Campbell's 'Vitruvius Britannicus'). It contains some family portraits, including an *Opie*. The grounds are pleasantly wooded, and the gardens, French in style, are interesting. Views are obtained by cutting through groups of trees, after the fashion shown in some of Watteau's pictures.

(*c*) Proceeding from Byfield to Banbury, the road at once climbs high ground, and commands very wide views over parts of Oxfordshire and Warwickshire, with the steep descent of Edgehill conspicuous. Nearer Byfield is seen one of the large reservoirs formed for supplying the Birmingham and Oxford canal, which winds through the lower country. This Byfield reservoir is of considerable extent, and has all the appearance of a natural lake. Many such reservoirs adjoin the canal through this part of its course.

At about 2 m. from Byfield, a road turns rt. to *Aston-le-Walls*, so named from its position near a long line of vallum or entrenchment which extended at least from this place to Kirtlington, in Oxfordshire, a distance of 19 m., nearly in the line of the Portway, but a mile or two from it on the W. It is one of many earthworks and entrenchments in this neighbourhood, which call for full examination. The *Church* at Aston has a Trans.-Norm. tower and nave, with a Dec. clerestory. The chancel is Dec. The font, large and square, is Norm. There is a canopied recess of the 14th cent., with the effigy of a priest. The manor-house was built by Wm. Plowden, temp. Wm. III. He was a Romanist, and was very obnoxious to the "Whigs" of his neighbourhood, one of whom, Col. Montague, then living at Chipping-Warden (see *post*) caused Mr. Plowden's 6 coach-horses to be seized and impounded at Banbury, under the act recently passed against nonjurors. He then quitted Aston in disgust, and although it remains in the possession of the Plowdens, it has never been inhabited by them since. There is a R. C. chapel here, maintained by the Plowdens. At Apeltree, a

hamlet in the parish, was born, 1710, Alban Butler, author of the 'Lives of the Saints,' first published in 1745 in 5 vols. 4to. The Butlers had at one time considerable property in this part of Northamptonshire.

By the side of the main road is what is called a "pack-horse stone," with the date 1659, and an inscription to the effect that Thos. Wright, of Warden, set it up. It is a "leaping-on" stone. Beyond it we reach (1 m.) *Chipping Warden*, so named from a market granted to the lords of the place by Hen. III., and continuing in use until at least the end of the following cent. The steps and base of the market cross remain in the village, overshadowed by a large elm-tree. Warden gives name to the hundred; and was the head of a barony held by service to the ward of Rockingham Castle. It descended through Reyncourts, Foliots, Ledets, Braybrooks, and Latimers; and there was a "Castle," or fortified manor-house here, of which some mounds and foundations may be traced in what is now the park of Edgcott. The *Church* of Chipping Warden is interesting. It is chiefly Dec. and Perp., and its condition of neglect, although not satisfactory, will please the antiquary better than a too-perfect "restoration." The Perp. arcade is fine and lofty, with a clerestory of large windows. The N. aisle is late Dec., with a peculiar wheel-tracery in the windows; and there are some fragments of old glass. The broad S. aisle retains E. E. portions at the E. and W. ends; but the windows are Dec. (curvilinear). In the chancel is one E. E. window, the E. window being late Dec. On the N. side is what seems to be a stone credence (?), a shelf with battlemented edge, supported by a head of Edw. III. as a bracket. Below the E. window is a reredos, formed as a long parallelogram, with open roses in the hollow moulding round it. The same battlemented moulding is carried along close under the window. At the E. end of the S. aisle are 3 sedilia, with a piscina eastward. At the E. angle of the N. aisle is a fine niche; and a curious hagioscope opens from the end of the aisle into what is now the vestry. There is a small mutilated *brass* for Richard Makepiece, yeoman, d. 1584. The tower is massive Perp., with a good W. doorway, and the window, in the stage above, has a niche on either side. (Comp. *Edgcott, post.*)

E. of the church is the manor-house, built by the Saltonstalls in the 16th cent. By a marriage with the heiress of Saltonstall it passed to the 2nd Earl of Halifax (d. 1739). It is now the property of Colonel and the Baroness North. It retains many traces of its former splendour in the shape of woodwork and moulded ceilings, although much of the house has been pulled down. Here lived Colonel Montague, the "enemy" of the Plowdens of Aston. (See *ante.*)

Close beyond the village is the entrance to the grounds of *Edgcott House* (R. Aubrey Cartwright, Esq.). The park is picturesque, with very fine elms. The house, large and somewhat dignified, was built in 1752, and occupies the exact site of an earlier mansion, which, as we know from existing drawings, was of Tudor character, with a porch and porch-chamber carried to the roof, and raised on Ionic columns. In this house slept, before the battle of Edgehill, the king, and the two elder princes, Charles and James. They arrived here from Southam, in the evening of Oct. 22, 1642, and about 3 o'clock on the following morning (the Sunday of the battle), the king was roused by a messenger from Prince Rupert, with the news that the Parliament's army was at hand, and that Charles might fight at once if he chose to do so. Orders were at once issued for the march to Edgehill, to which Charles passed by cross

roads. (For a notice of the battle see *post.*) A considerable part of the royal army had encamped between the village of Edgcott and Cropredy, and returned to these quarters after the battle. The king's host on this occasion was Sir William Chauncy, the representative of a family which acquired Edgcott in 1543. His full-length portrait hangs in the hall, and represents him in black, with long white stockings, open-work shoes with rosettes, collar and cuffs of lace, and a lace cap under his hat. In his right hand he carries a long staff. The inscription bears "Æt. 64. Ann. 1637." The bed in which the king rested is another relic of the house; and, since evident care has been taken to retain a carved headboard more ancient than the rest, this older portion may perhaps be regarded without much suspicion. Other portraits preserved here are those of William Henry Chauncy and wife, assigned to *Sir Joshua Reynolds*, and a very fine head of Sir Joshua, by himself. In the house is a tobacco-stopper made from the Boscobel oak, and inlaid with silver. On one side is the tree, with the words "sacer quercus;" on the other the head of Charles II. (It may be added that Cromwell E. of Essex, the minister of Hen. VIII. was at one time lord of Edgcott, and that some part of the older house was built by him.) Close to the mansion rises the *Church*, with a Perp. tower and W. doorway so like those at Chipping Warden that they must have been designed by the same architect. (A stoup is placed at the W. door, and another at the S.) The nave is separated from the S. aisle by a remarkable arcade of 2 arches, which are more Trans.-Norm. than E. E. On the capital of one of the piers is an arm with open hand. On the N. side of the chancel is a Perp. vestry with priest's room above it, approached by a stair in the N.W. angle. The ch. is rich in Chauncy monuments. At the E. end of the S. aisle is an alabaster altar-tomb, with effigies of Wm. Chauncy, d. 1585 (the purchaser of the manor), and wife, Joan Bustard. He is in plate-armour, but holds a small book in his hands. The lady's dress deserves notice. Below, on another alabaster tomb, are the effigies of Sir Toby Chauncy, d. 1607, son of the preceding, and 2 wives. The costume is precisely the same as in the former case, and the 2 monuments must have been prepared at the same time. Above the tablet for "Richard Chauncy," d. 1760, is his bust by *Rysbrach*. Observe also a slab placed above—"whatsoever was mortal of Bridget Chauncy, of whom man was not worthy;" d. 1730. The lady died unmarried.

South of Edgcott is the so-called valley (it is rather a plain) of Danes, or Duns, moor; and in the park is what Morton describes as the "noted flush spring" of Padwell, as to which there ran an ancient saying:—

"If we can Padwell overgo, and Horestone we can see,
Then Lords of England we shall be."

This "saying" is locally ascribed to the Danes before a great battle on the ground of Danesmoor,—hence so named. There was no doubt many a fight between Saxons and Danes in this part of England; but the chronicle does not record this one. Danesmoor was, however, undoubtedly the scene of a fierce fight in 1469, when "Robin of Redesdale" led a great body (it is said, 60,000) of "Northerners" in arms toward London, and encamped on Edgcott Hill, above Danesmoor. Here they were encountered by the Earl of Pembroke, marching from Banbury. The northern men were the stronger. Pembroke was taken prisoner, and a day or two after, John of Clapham, "that fierce Esquire," struck off the earl's head (it is said) with his own hand, in the porch of Banbury Ch.

This victory opened the country to "Robin," or rather to the true leader of the expedition, Sir John Conyers of Hornby, in Yorkshire,—"a man," says Hall, "of such courage and valientness as few was in his daies in the north parts." The peasantry joined his men. They surprised Lord Rivers, the queen's father, and Sir John Widville, her brother, either at Grafton, or in Whittlebury Forest, and carried them to Northampton, where they were beheaded. Danesmoor is described by Hall as "a faire plaine near to a town called Hedgecote, and between 3 hills," Chipping Warden Hill, Edgcott Hill, and Culworth and Thorpe Hill.

There are some ancient remains in the neighbourhood of Chipping Warden and Edgcott which deserve attention. At and about a place called *Black Grounds*, on the N. side of the Cherwell, ½ m. E. of the village of Warden, Roman relics have been found. Foundation walls, squared stones (some showing the action of fire), and a profusion of coins and pottery are turned up over an extent of nearly 39 acres. They probably mark the site of Brinavis, a station which, it is true, only occurs in an Iter (18th) of Richard of Cirencester, but which certainly agrees, as far as the distances are marked, with this place.

Wallow Bank, 1 m. N.W. of Black Grounds, is a small portion of a rampart, perpendicular on the W. and sloping toward the E., formed entirely of earth, and once no doubt extending much further. (Compare the "Wall" at Aston, *ante*.)

1 m. due W. from Black Grounds, is an entrenchment called *Arbury Banks*, of peculiar shape, with a circular mount on the outer line. There is no distant view; and it may, perhaps, be the site of a Saxon house. (The name "Arbury" is given throughout this district to many ancient camps or earthworks—as in Staverton parish (see Rte. 4), and at a place N. of Thenford. (See Rte. 6.)

We return to Byfield, and, proceeding along the same line of railway, soon leave Northamptonshire. The county here sends out a spur towards Warwickshire, and we pass the large Byfield reservoir (see *ante*), and the church of *Bodington* (Perp., and containing a fine carved chest) before, crossing the Oxford and Birmingham Canal, we arrive in the shire of Shakespeare. There are stations at *Fenny Compton* (where is a junction with the Great Western Rly. running from Oxford to Warwick), at *Kineton*, and at *Ettington*, before the line reaches *Stratford-on-Avon*. For all these places, see *Handbook for Warwickshire*.

The visitor to this part of Northamptonshire will so probably desire to make a pilgrimage to *Edgehill*, which is conspicuous beyond the border, and the operations before and after the battle were so much connected with this county, that it is as well to insert here a notice of this, the first great engagement of the Civil War.

Edgehill may be reached from *Banbury*, whence it is distant (to the ruins at the N. end of the hill) 7½ m.; from the station at *Fenny Compton* (distance to the top of the hill (the ruins), 5 m. No conveyance is to be hired at the station); or from *Kineton* station, which is perhaps the best starting-point for the pedestrian, who may walk thence over the battle-field, climb the hill which overlooks the whole scene, and descend either toward Banbury, or to the Fenny Compton station. This, however, will be a long round, at least 11 m. from Kineton to Banbury, or 9 miles to the Fenny Compton station. A carriage may, however, be hired at Kineton.)

The king set up his standard at Nottingham, August 22, 1642. The

Earl of Essex, with the army of the Parliament, was at Worcester. From Nottingham Charles marched to Shrewsbury, where he gathered an army from the neighbouring counties and from Wales, not inferior to that commanded by Essex. His object was to break up the Parliament; and for this, it was necessary either to defeat Essex, or to outflank him, and so to march upon London. The latter course was chosen. Charles advanced from Shrewsbury to Kenilworth, but could not enter Coventry or Warwick, both which places were held by Lord Brooke and his troops. Meanwhile, Essex, who had left Worcester, was pressing on the king by forced marches; but Charles turned the flank of the Parliament's army by crossing the Avon at one of the fords between Warwick and Coventry, and thus advanced upon Southam. But the entire length of the Avon lay open for the unmolested passage of Essex's army, in pursuit of that of the king.

Charles slept at Southam on the night of the 21st of October. On the 22nd, he proceeded, with his two sons, Charles and James, to the house of Edgcott, in Northamptonshire (see the present Rte. *ante*). On his way, he passed the old hall of the Shuckburghs (marked by a cluster of trees on a hill-top, just within the Warwickshire border); and as the king rode on over what was then open country, he saw, according to a local tradition preserved by an annotator of Dugdale, "a gentleman amusing himself with a pack of hounds," and asked who it was that could hunt so merrily, when his sovereign was about to fight for his crown and dignity. Mr. Richard Shuckburgh was introduced accordingly. Charles persuaded him to take home his hounds, and to raise his tenantry. The next day he joined the royal army with a troop of horse, and was knighted by the king on the field of Edgehill.

Prince Rupert, with his horse, took up his quarters on the night of the 22nd at Wormleighton (1½ m. N.E. of the Fenny Compton stat., where he occupied a stately house which had not long before been built by Sir Robert Spencer, created by James I. Baron Spencer of Wormleighton. (See *Althorp*, Rte. 7.) Here, word was brought to him that the fires of Essex's troops were visible on the plain near Kineton; and Rupert instantly sent a messenger to the king at Edgcott, with the news, and the addition that, "he might fight if he chose." This resolution was taken. Rupert marched from Wormleighton, and the appearance of some of his horse on the brow of Edgehill, about 8 in the morning of October 23rd, gave the first notice to Essex that his enemy was near at hand. The king, advancing from Edgcott, soon joined Rupert, and a line of battle was formed along the brow of the hill, the right resting on what is now known as Bullet Hill, where the road comes up from Kineton; the centre, where the king's tent was pitched, and his standard displayed, on the site of the "Round House," now marked by a sham ruin, immediately over the village of Radway; and the left, where the road runs up from Stratford-on-Avon to the house called the "Sunrising." Difficult ground on the right and left protected the flanks. Immediately in front, the ridge of Edgehill, which stretches almost N. and S., sinks suddenly down on what is the "central plain" of England; whilst at the northern end this ridge is crossed at a right angle by the Dasset Hills, which throw out a spur of high ground into the level. The king could thus overlook the entire position of his adversaries, which lay below him as on a map. The troops of Essex had posted themselves in the plain, with the little town of Kineton at their back. Essex himself occupied a rising ground, now known as "the

two battle farms," Battledon and Thistledon. On his right wing were 3 regiments of horse; on his left, 5 of infantry. His army, although about 3000 of the best men, under the command of Hampden, were a day's march in the rear, in charge of the greater part of their ammunition and artillery, numbered between 12,000 and 13,000 men. That of the king was superior by at least 2000 infantry, and some troops of horse. Some of the best disciplined men in his army were brought to Edgehill by Spencer Compton, Earl of Northampton, the great Royalist leader in this part of the country, who had levied them at his own charge, and had dedicated all his children to the king's service.

Charles, it is said, breakfasted at a cottage in the village of Radway (still shown); and a small mount or hillock which has been planted and preserved as a memorial, is pointed out as the spot to which he advanced in order to take a survey of the enemy with a "prospect glass." Meanwhile, preachers were seen to ride along the ranks of Essex's army, exhorting the men to do their duty. A hasty council of war was held on Edgehill. Had the king chosen to await the attack of Essex in the strong position occupied by his army, his success could hardly have been doubtful. But his men were impatient and high in spirit; in the plain below his cavalry might act with great advantage; and in spite of the prudent counsel of his brave old general, the Earl of Lindsey, Charles determined to push forward the two first lines, and to meet the attack half-way. He rode along in front of his troops in full armour, with the ribbon of the Garter across his breastplate, and its star on his mantle of black velvet. In his tent he addressed his principal officers, "Come life or death, your king will bear you company." Lord Lindsey's prayer before the battle is famous: "O Lord, Thou knowest how busy I must be this day. If I forget Thee, do not Thou forget me.—March on boys." His place was in the centre of the royal army, at the head of the foot-guards, the "red coats" as they were called. Here also were the king himself, and Sir Edmund Verney carrying the king's standard. On the left, the royal cavalry were commanded by Lord Wilmot. On the right, at the head of the steep descent now marked by the Kineton road, was Prince Rupert with his horse. Both armies advanced about 2 in the afternoon, and the battle began about 3, when the Parliament's guns opened from their right flank. On the king's right, as Rupert advanced, he encountered the enemy's left on the side of "Bullet Hill," so called from the relics of the fight still often turned up there. But suddenly, Sir Faithful Fortescue and his men, who were in Essex's ranks (see *post*), fired their pistols into the ground, and galloped into Rupert's lines. This desertion entirely confused the Parliamentarians. Their left wing broke and fled before Rupert's troopers; and the pursuit lasted with great slaughter, across the open fields for nearly 3 miles, as far as the town of Kineton. In Kineton, Rupert allowed himself to be detained for an hour in plundering the baggage of Essex's troops, which had been left in the streets. An alarm was all at once given that the enemy was again forming; and the prince drew up his cavalry on ground which still bears the name of "Rupert's Headland." But it was too late. Hampden and his troops, who, as has been said, were some marches behind the rest of the army, came up at this juncture and opened fire. Rupert was compelled to recross the plain in great confusion, throwing away his feathered hat that he might not be too clearly marked; and he reached the king's centre to find it in utter confusion.

The royal standard had been taken, and Sir Edmund Verney killed. Lord Lindsey had been shot in the thigh and made prisoner; and the king himself, as Clarendon admits, was in great personal danger, since, with fewer than 100 horse, and they without an officer, he was within half-musket shot of the enemy. It was, in short, the darkness of the October evening which enabled the royal troops to hold their ground. "Charles," says Clarendon, "caused his cannon which were nearest to the enemy to be drawn off, and with his whole forces spent the night in the field, by such a fire as could be made of the little wood and bushes which grow thereabouts." At daybreak, part of the Parliament's army was still seen in array; but the ill-success of either side had been nearly evenly balanced, and neither was anxious to renew the struggle. Both sides claimed the victory; and a fire was lighted on the curious beacon tower which still rises on the edge of the Dasset Hills, conveying the news to a hill above Ivinghoe in Buckinghamshire, thence to Highgate, and so to London. The real advantage nevertheless rested with the king. His army was still between Essex and the Parliament; and all the country round Edgehill fell at once into his power. The dead on either side, whose numbers were greatly exaggerated, but who seem to have been about 1300 or 1400, were buried for the most part between the two farmhouses of Battledon and Thistledon, on ground now called, "the graveyards," where relics are often turned up. As on many another battle-field, a "phantom fight" was duly beheld here about three months after the struggle. "Apparitions, and prodigious noyses of war and battels," according to a contemporary pamphleteer, were then seen and heard on the plain of Kineton, sundry of the "incorporeal substances" being distinctly known by their faces, as Sir Edmund Verney, and "others who were there slain." On the king's side, besides Verney, fell Col. Monro, Lord Aubigny, and Lord Lindsey, who died in Essex's coach on his way to Warwick Castle, "under the portcullis of which his corpse entered side by side with that of his youthful and gallant enemy, Charles Essex." Lord Willoughby, son of the E. of Lindsey, was made prisoner in attempting to rescue his father. Lord St. John of Bletsho was the chief person killed on the Parliament's side. After the death of Sir Edward Verney, the royal standard was taken by an ensign named Young, and delivered by Lord Essex to his own secretary, Chambers, who rode by his side. But, in the confusion, one of the king's officers, Captain Smith, drew on the orange scarf of a fallen Parliamentarian, and, riding in among the enemy's lines, told the secretary that it was "a shame so honourable a trophy of war should be borne by a penman." He resigned it. The Cavalier galloped back with it, and before evening, was knighted under its shadow.—The defection of Sir Faithful Fortescue is thus explained. He had been employed to enlist troops in Ireland and in England, which were to be used for the king's service (with the consent of Parliament), in the north of Ireland. Fortescue was on the point of embarking with his soldiers from Bristol when the Civil War broke out. He was ordered by the Parliament to march across the country and to join Essex's army, which he did. But he was a Royalist; and conceiving that his men had been raised for the king's service, he arranged to join Rupert as soon as possible.

The princes Charles and James were with the king at Edgehill, but remained apart, under the care of their tutor Harvey, the well-known discoverer of the circulation of the blood. It is said that a bullet or

two having fallen near the place where they were at first stationed, Harvey removed them to a somewhat greater distance from the scene of battle, and was afterwards found seated quietly under a hedge with the princes, reading Virgil.

The present appearance of Edgehill so far differs from what it must have been at the time of the battle, that the country is enclosed, and that the steep western slope of the hill has been planted. The scene, however, commanded from the ridge, is in the main unchanged. The great midland plain is commanded, from the Malverns on one side, to Charnwood Forest on the other. The country is in sight through which both armies advanced before the fight. The Avon is seen at a distance of ten or twelve miles; its course being marked by the spires of Coventry, the tower of St. Mary's at Warwick, the spire of Stratford-on-Avon, and Bredon Hill in Worcestershire. All this is best seen from the upper room of a remarkable modern ruin, which occupies the site of the old "Round House"; an amazing collection of shattered walls, broken mullions, and fallen pinnacles, among which rises one lofty round tower. This is made accessible by a drawbridge; and a somewhat perilous staircase leads to a banqueting room at the top, round which are hung the shields assigned to the several kingdoms of Saxon England. This "ruin" was the work of one of the Millers of Radway Grange, in the first half of the last century, when such sham "triumphs of time" were in fashion. The builder was a friend of Fielding, Shenstone, and other eminent men of that period. It is said that part of 'Tom Jones' was written at Radway. A Mr. Jago, vicar of Snitterfield, near Stratford, published in 1767 a poem in four books, called 'Edgehill,' and refers to the then new paths and plantations, and to the ruins:—

"And oft the stately towers that overtop
The rising wood, and oft the broken arch
Or mould'ring wall, well taught to counterfeit
The waste of Time, to solemn thought excite
And crown with graceful pomp the shaggy hill."

A track, now overgrown, in the woods, is pointed out as that by which the king, on the morning of the battle, drove down the hill in his "coach," before breakfasting in the Radway cottage; and in Radway church was buried Captain Kingsmill, who fell on the king's side. The house, called the "Sunrising," at the southern end of the ridge of Edgehill, is no longer, as in 1642, an inn. It has been converted into a private dwelling by its owner and occupier, Mr. Godson; who possesses a sword with the Lindsey crest, said to be that carried into the battle by the unfortunate general. On the western front of Edgehill, toward the south, is the figure of a horse cut in the red loam, as a memorial of that Earl of Warwick, who, before the fight of Towton, killed his horse, and vowed to share the perils of the meanest of his soldiers. The figure gives to that part of the plain the name of the "Vale of the Red Horse"; and a Puritan writer describing the battle, declared that at Edgehill, "the red horse of the wrath of the Lord rode about furiously to the ruin of the enemy."

There is a British camp called *Nadbury*, covering about eighteen acres, on the top of Edgehill, toward Ratley. The views from the Dasset Hills are very striking, and the situation of Burton Dasset church is most picturesque. The ch. is Trans.-Norm. and E.-Eng., and well deserves a visit. About ½ m. from it, on the hill, is the *beacon*, which was lighted as a signal of what the Parliamentarians called victory. This is a round building of stone, perhaps of the 15th cent. It has a conical roof, on which, within a para-

pet, the materials for the beacon fire were piled together.

ROUTE 6.

BANBURY TO NORTHAMPTON. FARTHINGHO TO BRACKLEY.

Branch of North-Western Rly.

The rly. from Banbury passes through pleasant country to

4 m. *Farthingho Stat.* The church here (Perp. and of no great interest) was restored in 1871. There is indeed little to detain the tourist at Farthingho (whatever the first part of the name may signify, the "ho" termination is one which is found in many other parts of England, especially in the eastern counties, and implies a low hill or rising ground) unless he cares to visit the source of the "greater" Ouse—one of the many rivers, which, rising in this central part of the island, find their way to the Eastern or Western sea. *Ouse well* is in a field at the foot of the hill descending E. from the village. It flows hence to Brackley, and then, in Drayton's words—

"From Brackley breaking forth, through soiles most heavenly sweet
By Buckingham makes on; and crossing Watling street
Shee with her lesser Ouze at Newport next doth twin,
Which from proud Chiltern neare, comes eas'ly ambling in."

[The *Church* of *Thenford*, 2 m. N.W., has a Trans.-Norm. arcade with a Perp. tower. Chancel and aisles are Dec. There is some old stained glass. There is a Jacobean monument with effigy, assigned to Fulk Woodhull, who died in 1613. He was the ancestor of Michael Woodhull, d. 1816,—a distinguished bibliographer, who was, says Dr. Dibdin, "profoundly versed in the volumes of Maittaire; and he who retaineth the information which such volumes possess may be said to lift his head very high in the atmosphere of bibliographical erudition." His library, one of great value and interest, remains in the *manor-house*, built by his father, and now the residence of Mrs. Severne. There are a few pictures, chiefly copies from Vandyck; but the portrait of Charles I. dictating to Sir Edward Walker on the drumhead, can hardly be by, or after, that painter. There is an original portrait of Sir Charles Wandesford (Strafford's follower), master of the rolls in Ireland, 1639, in his robes. In Seabridge Close, about 600 yards N.W. from the church, is a large funeral pile formed of earth and rubble, where bones and urns have been found. Roman remains, in greater quantity than those of an ordinary villa, occur here.]

From Banbury a train runs by Farthingho, Brackley, and Buckingham to Bletchley. *Brackley* is reached from Farthingho in 12 minutes, and the rly. there leaves Northamptonshire.

Between Farthingho and Brackley, Steane and Hinton-in-the-hedges are passed. *Steane* is interesting as the birth and burial place of Nathanael, Lord Crewe, Bp. of Durham from 1674 to 1721. Sir Thomas Crewe acquired the manor-house here by marriage with the heiress of the Brays, temp. Eliz. His son, for his exertions in favour of the restoration, was created Baron Crewe of Steane in 1661. His eldest son

Thomas, second Lord Crewe, died in 1697 without male issue, and the title and estates then passed to his fourth, but eldest surviving brother, the Bp. of Durham—the first who in this country united the temporal and spiritual peerage. The political tergiversations of this Lord Crewe—his subserviency to James, and his readiness afterwards to make peace with William—are without defence. But it has been said with truth that "many men have been canonized for works of beneficence much inferior to those of this prelate." The princely establishment at Bamborough Castle, and other charitable institutions in Northumberland are due to him. He was born at Steane, in a manor-house built by the Brays, and pulled down (except the kitchens) about 1740—Jan. 31, 1633; and died in the same house, Sept. 18, 1721. The church or chapel (it is attached to Hinton) which adjoins the farm-house formed out of the kitchens of the old manor-house was built by "Thomas Crewe" before he was knighted in 1620. His initials are on the W. front; and over the door are the words "Holiness becometh thine howse, O Lord, for ever." The whole building is small. The altar coverings of crimson velvet, the reading-desk and pulpit, were given by the Bp. of Durham, and were brought here from the Chapel Royal at St. James's, where he had been clerk of the closet to Charles II. The Bible and Common Prayer Book were those used by the king himself; and there are also here six other books of Common Prayer, with the insignia of Wm. III. on the covers. There is a north chapel which serves as the Crewe cemetery. In it is the monument of Sir Thomas Crewe, d. 1633, and his wife, Temperance Bray; he in sergeant's robes, coif, and quilted ruff; she on a shelf below. The inscription records that "her hand, which had good blood in every vaine, yet was not dayntye, nor did disdayne salve to applye to Lazarus sore." There are also memorials for the first and second Lords Crewe; and most interesting of all, for the Bp. of Durham—a monument of variegated marble, without any great pretension. Here is also the monument of his second wife, daughter of Sir William Foster of Bamborough—and the bishop, it is said, often visited this memorial. The tomb had been decorated with a skull; and Lord Crewe having expressed a wish that it should be converted into something more pleasing, the Banbury sculptor modified it into the bunch of grapes which remains. There are some other Crewe monuments, including one for Temperance, wife of John Browne, and third daughter of Sir Thomas Crewe, d. 1634,—a shrouded female rises from a coffin; and the inscription tells us that the lady was "a constant lover of the best . . . . her spirite of a dayntye elevation. . . . this becoming mortall translated her into immortalitye . . . . aged 25 years."

The *Church* of *Hinton-in-the-hedges* (the name indicating ancient enclosure) has a Norm. tower with a good arch opening to nave, and a Norm. font. The whole church was restored, and the chancel partly rebuilt, in 1869. There is a *brass* for Sir William Saunders, 1452; and altar-tombs with rough effigies of a knight and lady, temp. Edw. III.—probably belonging to a family which assumed the local surname and remained here until the beginning of the reign of Hen. IV.

The "borough town" of *Brackley* (*Inn:* Crown. Pop. in 1871, 2351) lies on the side, and along the summit of a hill, below which runs the stream of the Ouse. The first charter confirming the liberties of the borough, is undated, but belongs to the reign of Hen. III. It

is said to have been made a staple for wool, temp. Edw. II., and it was undoubtedly at that time a place of some commercial importance, although all signs of this had vanished when Leland visited what he calls the "pore towne." It belonged to a portion of the Honour of Leicester which was afterwards merged in the Honour of Winchester; and its feudal lords—de Quincys, Zouches, Stanleys, and others, had a castle here, which at an early period fell into decay, and the site of which is now marked alone by the name of the hill where it stood. Brackley returned two members to Parliament from the reign of Edw. VI. until the disfranchisement of the borough under the Reform Bill of 1832. On the death of William Stanley, 6th Earl of Derby, in 1642, his estates not settled in "tail male" were divided among his daughters, one of whom, Frances, became the wife of John Egerton, son of the Lord Chancellor Ellesmere. In view of this marriage Lord Ellesmere chose Brackley for the title of his own viscountcy; and his son John, succeeding, became second Viscount Brackley and first Earl of Bridgewater. The titles were revived (Earl of Ellesmere and Viscount Brackley) in 1846 in favour of the second son of the first Duke of Sutherland. Brackley does not stand on any great line of ancient road; but the place is named in connexion with the gathering of the barons in the reign of John, and again during the Barons' war of Hen. III. In 1215, after the barons had met at Stamford, they proceeded with a large army to Brackley, where they halted for some days. John was at Oxford, and sent to Brackley to learn the claims of the barons. He refused their demands; and Robert Fitz Walter was then, at Brackley, chosen their leader, "Marshall of the army of God and of Holy Church." They marched thence to Northampton. (This, it need hardly be said, was the beginning of the "Magna Charta" struggle). In 1264 Simon de Montfort and his adherents met at Brackley Sir John de Valencinis, the representative of the King of France, to whose arbitration they had agreed to refer the questions in dispute between them and King Henry. It is probable that Brackley heath, a large tract of open ground, being centrally placed, was (with the de Quincy castle) the reason for the selection of this place on both occasions. It was chosen by the Parliamentarian general, the Earl of Essex, for the rendezvous of his army in 1643, when he marched for the relief of Gloucester, which the king was besieging. In 1642, after the royal standard had been raised at Nottingham, 3 troops of horse under the command of Sir John Byron and his brothers, were detached to Oxford. They were attacked and routed at Brackley by the country people, who got "two hats full of gold, about 2000*l.* in silver, a packet of "rich cloaths of Sir John Byron's, worth 200*l.*," many horses and other plunder.

The sole object of interest in Brackley at present is *St. Peter's Church*, the E. E. tower of which is very fine. Above the W. door are 3 lancets, 2 of which are blind niches, retaining much-worn figures. In the stage above is a single lancet; and the belfry stage is much enriched with arcades and bracketing. The rest of the church is mainly late Dec. and Perp. There is an eastern Lady Chapel, with crypt. A second church, which contained Norman work, stood near the rly. station, but has been pulled down. In the town is the *Magdalen College Grammar School*, founded and endowed by Wm. of Wainflete in 1447, and re-organised in 1860. It took the place of the hospital of St. John, founded by Robert Earl of Leicester soon after the Conquest.

The old buildings have entirely disappeared; but the chapel, with Trans.-Norm. and E. E. portions, remains, and has been restored. During the plague in Oxford, temp. Hen. VIII., the master and fellows of Magdalen College removed to this hospital.

On a table-land called *Bayards'* (*i.e.*, horses') Green, S. of the Ouse, near the mill in [Evenly] parish, between Brackley and Mixbury, a tournament was held in 1194.

Proceeding from Farthingho, we reach the next *station* at,

8¾ m. from Banbury, *Helmdon.* On the way the churches of Marston St. Lawrence, and Gretworth are passed l.

Marston Church is Dec., but the east window (and others of the chancel) show much of Perp. character. The side windows are of 2 lights, long and narrow, with transoms. On the N. side are the remains of a fine Holy sepulchre. The chancel screen has on it the date 1610, and is an unusual example of such a screen at that period. It may have been designed by the carver of the altar-piece, which is of wood, and of the same date. The nave arcade is Dec., the tower Perp. In the ch.-yd. is a very large yew-tree, measuring 17 ft. 10 in. at the ground, and 21 ft. 9 in. at 6 ft. from the ground. The branches spread 62 ft. from N. to S. and 57 ft. E. to W. The church contains many monuments for the family of Blencowe, including one for Sir John Blencowe, Judge in the Court of Common Pleas from 1697 to 1722. The principal manor here belonged to the Carthusians of Shene, and on the Dissolution was granted to Thomas Blencowe. At the *Manor-House* (J. A. Blencowe, Esq.) are many family portraits, including one of the Judge, in his robes. There is a chimney-piece of carved oak in the dining-room, which is no doubt the work of the artist who carved the altar-piece in the church. *Gretworth* stands on high ground, commanding wide views. The nave of the church is modern. The chancel E. E.; the tower Perp.

There is nothing to detain the tourist at *Helmdon*, a long straggling village, where the church is without interest, unless he cares to inspect a chimney-piece at the rectory, on which is a date which considerably exercised antiquaries of the last century. It appears to run, "An. Do. M 133," and the debate has been whether we are to understand 1133 or 1535. It is now certain that the latter is the case; and the initials W. R. following the date are no doubt those of William Reynold, rector from 1523 to 1560. In the ch.-yd. is a very large yew tree.

[There is nothing of interest at *Radston* or *Whitfield*, parishes on the border of the county, S. of Helmdon. Whitfield church was rebuilt in 1869, when the old tower was blown down. *Syresham*, adjoining Whitfield, is not more important. These places lie on or adjoining the high road from Oxford to Towcester, through Brackley.

At *Sulgrave*, 3 m. N.W. of Helmdon, is an indifferent Perp. church, containing a small *brass* for "Lawrence Washington, gent., died 1583, and Ann his wyf," by whom he had 4 sons and 7 daughters. He is described as "of Northampton," and lands in Sulgrave belonging to Canons Ashby and Catesby were granted to him on the dissolution of those religious houses. The grandson of this Lawrence, bearing the same Christian name, sold (jointly with his father) Sulgrave to a relative, and went himself to Brington,

where he died (see *Brington*, Rte. 7). His second son, John Washington, emigrated to America, about the middle of the 17th cent., and was great-grandfather of the patriot George Washington. The tomb slab here, as at Brington, bears the Washington arms, "two bars gules, in chief 3 mullets of the second." It is difficult to believe that the "stars and stripes" of the American flag were not derived from this coat; but the history of that flag is well ascertained, and we must be content to acknowledge a very strange and remarkable coincidence. There are remains of what is called a castle, W. of the ch.-yd. Close to the ancient road, called "Banbury-lane," which runs through this parish, is a tumulus, called Barrow Hill, from which, according to Morton, "nine counties do present themselves to one view." (These are Northants., Warwicksh., Worcestersh., Oxfordsh., Gloucestersh., Berks., Bucks., Beds., and Herts.) The base is 25 yds. by 19 yds., the summit 12 yds. by 10 yds. On it grows a great decaying ash-tree, said to be 4 centuries old. This tree was a famous witch haunt, and the people of Sulgrave wished to cut it down. But after they had climbed the hill, and had begun their work, they saw their village, to all appearance, in flames, and returned in haste. Meanwhile the witches repaired the injury done to the tree, and it was preserved. In the 2nd half of the last cent., Sulgrave was the resort of a gang of highwaymen who for 20 years were the terror of Northamptonsh. They were known as the "Culworth Gang," since many of them lived in that village. The parish clerk of Sulgrave was one of the most daring among them, and he always carried pistols in church, fearing that an attack might be made on him there, since it was in Sulgrave church that the stolen goods were for the most part hidden. Another of the gang was a man named Gilkes, son of very respectable parents in the neighbourhood, who joined for the sake of "excitement and romance." Two of them, who were taken at Towcester, made a confession which led to the breaking up of the whole business, and four of the gang were hanged at Northampton, Aug. 3, 1787.

The *station* beyond Helmdon is 12½ m. *Wappenham.* The village stands on high ground, and the church has Norm. and E. E. portions. In it are the following *brasses:* an unknown man, in armour, circ. 1460, lower half lost; Sir Thos. Billing, Ch. Justice of the Ct. of C. Pleas, d. 1480, and wife (this brass was brought from Bittlesden Abbey after the Dissolution), portion lost; Constantia, wife of John Butler, 1499; unknown man, in armour, and wife, circ. 1500. The manor-house of *Astwell* in this parish belonged to the Shirleys, Earls Ferrars, and retains some Tudor portions, besides an embattled tower which may be earlier. The greater part of the house has been pulled down. In it was born, Aug. 13, 1707, the well-known Selina Shirley, afterwards Countess of Huntingdon, to whom George Whitfield was for some time chaplain.

The churches of *Abthorpe* and *Slapton*, neither of much importance, are passed between Wappenham and

16½ m. *Towcester.* (See Rte. 5.)

For the line between Towcester and Northampton, see Rtes. 1 and 5.

ROUTE 7.

NORTHAMPTON TO RUGBY.

By Road.

Dallington Hall and Church, passed at 1 m. on this road, are noticed in Rte. 1. At 4 m. from Northampton is *Harleston*, the Herolvestune of the Domesday Survey. l. of the road is *Harleston Hall*, belonging to Earl Spencer. Rt. is the *Church*, which is of considerable interest, since we know the exact time of its building. It was constructed entirely *de novo* during the rectorate of Richard de Hette (1292–1334), as we learn, both from his tomb slab in the S. aisle, round which is the inscription, "Orate pro anima Ricardi de Hette qui fecit cancellam, cujus auxilio fuit ecclesia facta, anno domini MCCCXX quinto," and from the very curious "journal" of Henry de Bray, the principal landowner here, who writes, "Magister R. de Het instit. ad presentationem Prioris de Lenton, A.D. 1292 incipiente. Et ipse de novo fecit cancellam, A.D. 1320. Tota ecclesia facta fuit de novo temp. dicti rectoris, A.D. 1325. Rogerus de Lomelay invenit ferramenta et verruram; Henricus de Bray petram et merremium (timber). Johannes Dyve carpentriam." "Ipse Ricardus," he adds, "fuit rector 42 annos." The year of Henry de Bray's death is unknown, but it must have been after 1334. His "register," or journal, is now in the Brit. Mus.—(Lansdowne MSS. No. 761.) The church consists of tower, nave, N. and S. aisles, chancel, and S. porch. The tower is E. Eng., and of course part of the earlier church. The chancel retains much of de Hette's work, although there has been considerable "modernizing." The sedilia and piscina, with trefoiled arches, are good and well executed. The hood-mouldings of the windows terminate in the peculiar Decorated ornament first named by the late Mr. Hartshorne, "buckle," here unusually developed. The rest of the church, as we have seen, is somewhat later, and the aisles, with their windows, have been very little touched by "improvers." The windows are of 3 lights, with ogee arches, and reticulated, quatrefoiled tracery. The clerestory windows are Perp., and are either entire insertions or enlargements of the older. The porch is slightly later than the S. aisle. The font may be E. Eng., and there are some fragments of Dec. glass in the windows. Under the chancel is a small crypt (with a simple groined roof), rendered necessary by the sloping of the ground. The church contains some monuments, handsome, but of no great interest, for the families of Andrew and Lovell (17th and 18th cents.).

1 m. beyond Harleston, the road is skirted, l., by the park wall of *Althorp* (Earl Spencer). This place, it need hardly be said, besides the beauty of its park scenery, has attractions of a very special character. The house contains an enormous collection of pictures, chiefly portraits of high interest; and the whole of the great Spencer library, a collection which is probably unequalled, in so far as the numbers, value, and perfect condition of its early printed books are concerned, has long been assembled here.

Althorp, the "Olletorp" and "Alidetorp" of Domesday (qy., the *old* thorp or hamlet?) passed through Vielestons, Lumleys, and Catesbys to John Spencer (afterwards knighted

by Hen. VIII.), a part in 1508 and the rest in 1512. The Spencers, who claim to be descended from Robert "le Dispenser," the Conqueror's steward, passed into this county from Warwickshire, where the same Sir John Spencer became the proprietor of Wormleighton. He was a man of extreme wealth, one of those great sheepowners whose flocks, according to Sir Thomas More, "consumed, destroyed, and devoured whole fields, houses, and cities. For their masters . . . inclose all into pastures; they throw down houses, they pluck down towns, and leave nothing standing but only the church, to be made a sheep-house."—*Utopia.* Brington and Newbottle were also bought by this Sir John Spencer, whose grandson, another Sir John, seems to have been the first planter of trees at Althorp (see *post*, the park). Althorp was not as yet the exclusive home of the Spencers; and Sir Robert Spencer, grandson of the second Sir John, was created in 1603 (1st Jas. I.) Baron Spencer (not of Althorp, but) of Wormleighton. He had, however, in the same year received at Althorp (June 25th) Queen Anne of Denmark and her son Prince Charles, in the course of their first journey from Scotland; and it was partly as a return for the splendid hospitality then displayed (see *post*, the park) that Sir Robert received his peerage. This first Lord Spencer lived much at Wormleighton and at Althorp. "Like the old Roman dictator from his farm," says the scandal-loving Wilson, "Spencer made the countrey a vertuous court, where his fields and flocks brought him more calm and happy contentment than the various and mutable dispensations of a court can contribute."—*Life of Jas. I.* He was once, says the same writer, "speaking something in the house that their great ancestors did, which displeased Lord Arundel, and he cuts him off short, saying, 'My Lord, when these things you speak of were doing, your ancestors were keeping sheep'" (twitting him with his flocks, which he took delight in). Spencer instantly replied, "When my ancestors, as you say, were keeping sheep, your ancestors were plotting treason!" For this and the "heat" which it occasioned in the house, Lord Arundel was sent to the Tower, and at last had to make an apology. (There is a local tradition that this Lord Spencer, a great sheep-master like his progenitor, could never possess 20,000 sheep: a mortality always attacked his flocks between the 19th and 20th thousand). Of the 2nd Lord Spencer, who succeeded his father in 1627, little is recorded. He died 1636. His son, the 3rd Lord, was born at Althorp, and was the first of his family who made this place his principal home. He married Dorothy Sidney—Waller's Sacharissa—dr. of the 2nd E. of Leicester; was created Earl of Sunderland by Charles I. (June 8th, 1643), and fell, aged 23, in the battle of Newbury (Sept. 20) in the same year. The zeal, courage, and generosity of this 1st E. of Sunderland are duly recorded by Clarendon. His widow survived him nearly 40 yrs., living for some time "retired" at Althorp, where her house "was a sanctuary to the loyal sufferers and learned clergymen." She afterwards married Robert Smythe, Chas. II.'s Governor of Dover Castle, and surviving him, was buried with her first husband at Brington (see *post*). During her widowhood at Althorp, Charles I. (June, 1647) was at Holdenby (see *post*) and came here to play bowls. The 2nd E. of Sunderland was Ambassador to Madrid in 1671, and to Paris in 1674. He is the "unprincipled and faithless politician" who figures in Macaulay's History, "constant through all the vicissitudes of his life to three objects only,—to be safe, rich, and great." William III. visited him at

Althorp in 1695, and "all Northamptonshire crowded to kiss the royal hand in that fine gallery which had been embellished by the pencil of Vandyke, and made classical by the Muse of Waller." (This, however, only in so far as Waller has celebrated "Sacharissa.") The 2nd Earl Spencer (d. 1834, aged 76) told Dr. Dibdin that he had talked with an old woman at Althorp who had a perfect recollection of this visit, and described the royal body-guard as she saw them with their drawn swords in the square before the house. In 1697 William was compelled to dismiss this his favourite minister, who retired to Althorp, and died here in 1702. His wife was Anne, dr. and heiress of George Digby, 2nd and last E. of Bristol, and nearly as celebrated and remarkable as her lord. "Sure," writes the Princess Anne to her sister the Princess of Orange, "never was a couple so well matched as she and her good husband; for as she is throughout, in all her actions, the greatest jade that ever was, so he is the subtillest, workingnest villain that is on the face of the earth." The lady professed earnest religion, and her sincerity has been doubted. She was greatly disliked by her mother-in-law "Sacharissa;" but, on the other hand, Evelyn was her friend, and in his memoirs he describes the admirable order and economy of Althorp "perfectly becoming a wise and noble person." She died in 1715. Charles, 3rd E. of Sunderland, was distinguished from his youth for his love of learning, and collected books "while," says Macaulay, "other heirs of noble houses were inspecting patterns of steinkirks and sword-knots, dangling after actresses, or betting on fighting cocks." He married, 1st, a dr. of the D. of Newcastle, and 2nd, Anne, dr. of the 1st D. of Marlborough and the famous Duchess Sarah. He died in 1722, having been an active politician and statesman, Ld. Lieut. of Ireland at one time, and Lord Pres. and 1st Lord of the Treasury 1718–19. His eldest surviving son became at his death 4th E. of Sunderland; the next, Charles, owing to the deaths in the Marlborough family, became 2nd D. of Marlborough, and also 5th E. of Sunderland, on the death of his brother in 1729. But on his accession in 1733 to the dukedom, the Althorp property passed to his youngest brother John, the favourite grandson of Duchess Sarah, still living and powerful. She determined that both branches of the Spencer family should be wealthy; and left, accordingly, very large estates to John Spencer of Althorp, from whom the Earldom of Sunderland and the other Spencer titles had passed away. He died in 1746. His eldest son was created Viscount and Baron Spencer; and in 1761, Earl Spencer and Viscount Althorp. His death occurred in 1783. His son, the 2nd Earl, was for some time an active statesman, but after 1807 abandoned public life, and became the collector of the famous library. The 3rd Earl was the Lord Althorp of the first Reform Bill. Frederick, the 4th Earl, was Captain in the Royal Navy. The present lord, who is the 5th Earl, succeeded his father in 1857.

These notices will better enable us to understand the house and the portraits which it contains, as well as the monuments in Brington Church. Althorp is a large, but hardly an imposing mansion. Mrs. Jameson described it as "having a look of compactness and comfort without pretension," and perhaps this is as much as can fairly be said for it. The house was cased with a whitish brick by the 2nd Earl, the collector of the library; one or two portions have since been added; and at present (1877) Althorp is receiving a considerable addition and embellishment. The house has really grown

out of that built by Sir John Spencer, the great sheepowner, early in the 16th cent. It contains portions of this date, and successive lords have left their marks within and about it. The great staircase, and probably the picture gallery, remain as they were planned by "Sacharissa" (1st Countess of Sunderland) during her widowhood. In order to make them she inclosed the inner court of the Tudor house; and Evelyn, after one of his visits to Sacharissa's dr.-in-law (see *ante*), describes Althorp as "a noble, uniform pile, in the shape of a half H . . . The hall is well, the staircase excellent; the rooms of state, galleries, offices, and furniture, such as may become a great prince." The house is also noticed (1669) in the Travels of Cosmo, afterwards Grand D. of Tuscany, as "the best planned and best arranged country-seat in the kingdom; for though there may be many which surpass it in size, none are superior to it in symmetrical elegance."

The *Library*, which may first be noticed, contains about 50,000 volumes. The books are lodged in one great apartment, and in a series of rooms opening one into another on the ground-floor of the mansion, thoroughly comfortable and in daily use. Here and there a portrait or some picture of unusual excellence breaks the line of the cases. All the books are richly and appropriately habited, and cast what Dibdin well calls a "heart-warming glow" throughout the long range of apartments—so long that, as the same ingenious writer suggests, "a Shetland pony might be conveniently kept, in ready caparison, to carry the more delicate visitor from one extremity to another." The first Spencerian library (that collected by the 3rd Earl of Sunderland, see *ante*) passed to Blenheim, and became the foundation of the collection there. It had been pledged to the duke, the father-in-law of Lord Spencer (as he then was) for 10,000*l.*; and when the 2nd Earl Spencer began to form his library, he found nothing at Althorp beyond the ordinary book collection of a large country house. How the "bokes" were gathered; how part of the great library of President de Thou found its way to Spencer House; how treasure after treasure —tall copies, uncut copies, unique copies—passed day by day into this vast assemblage; how Charles Lewis was busied day and night in retouching old bindings, and in decorating the rare tomes of Caxton and Wynkyn de Worde with the choicest specimens of "bibliopegistic" art—all this may be read in the pages of *Dibdin* (*Bibliotheca Spenceriana*, 4 vols., and *Ædes Althorpianæ*, 2 vols., 1822). Many of the rarer books remained for a long time at Spencer House in St. James's Place; but all have now been assembled at Althorp. It is of course impossible to discuss or even to notice here the treasures of such a collection as no other chateau in the world can show. The history and development of the "ars impressoria" is perhaps nowhere else to be followed so clearly. One room, of which the dimensions are by no means small, is devoted to books printed before 1500. Here the long rows of Caxtons, Pynsons, and de Wordes "bend the groaning shelves," and strike the most hardened collector with wonder. Here, too, is the celebrated Valdarfer Boccaccio, bought by the Marquis of Blandford at the Roxburgh sale for 2260*l.*—the largest sum ever given for a single volume, or, indeed, for any book except the Mazarine Bible, in 2 vols., which at the sale of the Perkins library in June 1873, brought 2690*l.* The great sum given by Lord Blandford for the Boccaccio was owing to the zeal of his rival, Lord Spencer; who subsequently acquired the precious volume for the comparatively moderate price of 918*l.* The book is in the finest

condition, bound by Ch. Lewis in green morocco, sprinkled with gold ornaments, and bearing the arms of the Duke of Roxburgh and of Lord Spencer. This, and the other treasures of the "old book room," as it is called, are more carefully protected than the rest of the library. But there is a general rule that no book may be taken down save by the librarian, who is assisted by an excellent catalogue, in many small volumes, arranged in a cabinet. Each book there entered has its number, referring to a large general volume, which gives its situation in the library, so that it can be found at once.

Pictures and Portraits are scattered through all the rooms at Althorp; but the most important (of the latter at least) are assembled on the *staircase* (which, as Evelyn wrote, is really "excellent") and in the *long gallery* already mentioned; "one of those enchanted scenes," writes Walpole (*Anec. of Painting*) "which a thousand circumstances of history and art endear to a pensive spectator." Of all these a fuller account must be given. Considerable changes and repairs are, however, in progress (1877) at Althorp, which may probably render necessary a new arrangement of the pictures; and it will therefore be most convenient to describe the more important of them here under the names of the several painters. The *Vandycks*, the *Knellers*, the *Lelys*, and the *Reynolds* portraits call for special attention. The principal pictures are marked with an *. It may first be noticed, however, that in the *hall* are several hunting pieces by *John Wootton* (circ. 1730), a once famous painter of horses and dogs. Among the figures appears conspicuously Chas., the 2nd Duke of Marlborough, who was then the owner of Althorp. A horse and a dog by *Stubbs*, are better pictures.

**Angosciola* (Sophonisba); portrait of herself, seated at a clavichord; a duenna at the side. This picture was bought by the famous Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, for 700 guineas—a great price at that time. On the picture is the inscription *Jussu Patris*. There are few of her works in England. At Wilton is a "Marriage of St. Catherine" by her, and there is a portrait at Burghley (see Rte. 3). She went to Madrid on the invitation of Philip II. Born at Cremona, 1533; d. 1626. This picture, says *Waagen*, is "carefully painted in a delicate tone, with a refined feeling for nature." *Asselyn;* two very good landscapes.

Bardwell (Thomas, d. 1773); John, 1st Earl Spencer, aged 15. *Baroccio;* The Nativity. "A small but very choice picture of the master."—*Waagen. Fra Bartolomeo;* Virgin and Child. *Bassano* (Giacomo); Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes; Flagellation of Our Lord; Expulsion of the Money Changers; Our Lord bearing His Cross. *Battoni* (Pompeo); Portrait of Georgiana, Countess Spencer (painted at Rome, 1763). *Beale* (Mary, born 1632, d. 1697); Portraits of Lady Howard of Escrick, Countess of Shrewsbury, whose husband fell in a duel with the 2nd D. of Buckingham, while Lady Shrewsbury, disguised as a page, held the Duke's horse; Cowley the poet; Otway; Frances Jennings, Duchess of Tyrconnel, and sister of Sarah, D. of Marlborough; Nell Gwynne; and Catherine Sedley, Mistress of Jas. II., who created her Countess of Dorchester. *Berghem;* Landscape. *Bol* (*Ferdinand*); Hugo Grotius when a boy. *Borgonogne;* a large battle-piece. *Bourdon* (Sebastian); Descent from the Cross. *Le Brun* (Charles); Crucifixion of St. Andrew. **De Bruyn* (Bartholomew); An altar-piece with doors; an excellent picture, here wrongly assigned to Albert Durer.

Caracci (Agostino); a girl with kittens. *Caracci* (Annibale); Virgin and Child, with two Saints. *Caracci*

(Lodovico); The Tribute Money; a School Mistress. **Champagne* (Philippe de); Portrait of Robert Arnaud d'Andilly, one of the Port Royalists. *Claude de Lorraine;* a sea-port; a landscape. **Cleeve* (Joas van, born 1500, d. 1536); his own portrait: "Very masterly. We cannot blame him for feeling hurt that Sir A. More was preferred to him."—*Waagen.* *Copley* (John Singleton); Portrait of George John, 2nd Earl Spencer, d. 1834. Under his administration, as 1st Lord of the Admiralty, were won the victories of Cape St. Vincent, Camperdown, and the Nile. He was the collector of the great Spencer Library. **Cuyp* (Albert); a calm. This very beautiful picture belonged to Duchess Sarah.

Dahl (Michael, born 1656, d. 1743); Portraits of Queen Anne and her son, the D. of Gloucester; Mary, wife of Sir Richard Spencer, and her son, Sir John Spencer of Offley; another of Sir John Spencer; Sir Brocket Spencer; his wife, Lady Spencer; and Sir Richard Spencer of Offley. *Dance* (Nathaniel); Earl of Jersey. *Dobson* (William, born 1610, d. 1646); Portraits of Col. John Russell, brother of the 1st D. of Bedford; the artist himself; and Margaret Lemon, mistress of Vandyck. *Dolce* (Carlo); Marriage of St. Catherine, "Very delicately executed."—*Waagen.* *Domenichino;* a Magdalen; St. Charles Borromeo celebrating Mass.

Everdingen (Albert van); four circular landscapes.

Fleshier; Portraits of Lucy Barlow or Walters, mother of the Duke of Monmouth and Charlotte De la Tremorville, Countess of Derby, the defendress of Lathom House.

Gainsborough (born 1727, d. 1788); Portraits of *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, d. 1806; dr. of John, 1st Earl Spencer; William Poyntz of Midgham, brother of Georgiana Poyntz, wife of 1st E. Spencer; John, 1st Earl Spencer; Georgina Spencer, aged 6, afterwards D. of Devonshire; and Georgina (Poyntz), 1st Countess Spencer. Earl (then Mr.) Spencer married Miss Poyntz privately at Althorp, the day after he came of age, Dec. 1755. "After tea, the parties necessary for the wedding stole by degrees from the company, into Lady Cowper's dressing-room, where the ceremony was performed; and they returned different ways to the company again, and joined dancing with them.")

Gentileschi (Artemisia, d. 1642); Portrait of herself. *Garrard* (Mark, b. 1560, d. 1635); Portraits of the *1st Baron Spencer, of Wormleighton and Althorp, d. 1627 (see *ante*). He wears his peer's robes. Margaret, Lady Spencer, d. 1597; King James I. *Guercino;* St. Sebastian; *St. Luke painting the Virgin.

Hals (Frank); Portrait of himself. *Hanneman* (Adrian); Portrait of Princess Mary, dr. of Ch. I. *Hayter* (Sir George); Viscount Althorp, afterward 3rd Earl Spencer—the Lord Althorp of the Reform Bill. *Heere* (Lucas de); *Lady Jane Grey, perhaps the only existing portrait. *Hogarth;* View in the Green Park, 1760. *Holbein* (b. 1498, d. 1554); Portraits of John Calvin (bought at the sale at Stowe in 1848); Himself; *Hen. VIII., Princess Mary, and Will Somers, the Jester. This is pronounced by Waagen, "a coarse copy from Holbein." The King and Princess are seated before a table covered with an Eastern carpet, Will Somers, standing behind, holds the Princess's pet dog. *Henry VIII. (so-called, but Waagen suggests that it does not represent the king. It is, he adds, "finished like a miniature . . . . with the most refined truth of nature.") *Hudson* (born 1701, d. 1779; master of Reynolds); Lady Georgiana Spencer; John, Earl Granville; Countess Granville; Stephen Poyntz of Midgham.

Janet (François); *Francis, 2nd K. of France, as a boy; Mary of

Scotland as his wife. (The latter is a doubtful repres. of Mary). *Janssen* (Cornelius); *Portrait of Sir Kenelm Digby, d. 1665 (to the knees, in black dress, with rich falling ruff and cuffs. This picture was, it is said, greatly admired by Sir J. Reynolds).

Kauffman (Angelica); Children of John, 1st Earl Spencer; Margaret, Countess of Lucan. *Kneller* (Sir Godfrey, b. 1648, d. 1723). There are here 15 portraits by Kneller, of which the most interesting are those of the famous Sarah Jennings, Duchess of Marlborough, of her children, and relatives. There are *4 portraits of the Duchess, one of which shows her in youthful beauty; *one of her mother, Mrs. Jennings, with none of her daughter's good looks; one of John, Marquis of Blandford, only son of the great Duke of Marlborough, who died when at Cambridge of the small-pox; Henrietta and Anne Churchill, drs. of the Duke and Duchess; and another of Lady Anne, who married Charles, 3rd Earl of Sunderland (see *ante*). Other Kneller portraits are those of himself, of Addison, and of Hortense Mancini, Duchesse de Mazarin.

Lely (Sir Peter, b. 1617, d. 1680). Here are 32 portraits by Lely, including some of the most noticeable of the Ch. II. and Grammont beauties. Among them are Anne Hyde, Duchess of York, mother of Queen Anne; * Anne, 2nd Countess of Sunderland (the friend of Evelyn and wife of Wm., 3rd Earl of Sunderland, see *ante*); Sir Peter Lely himself; * Barbara, Lady Castlemaine, created by Ch. II. Duchess of Cleveland—as a shepherdess with a crook. Burnet describes her as "enormously vicious and ravenous." She was Clarendon's great enemy; * Comtesse de Grammont, sister of the famous Count Hamilton—she lived *sans reproche* at the courts of Ch. II. and Louis XIV.; * Nell Gwynne, a very striking picture, with a forest background; * the Duchess of Portsmouth, the famous Louise de Querouaille, the most constant, favoured, and costly of the mistresses of Ch. II. Evelyn notices her as "that famous beauty, but, in my opinion, of a childish, simple, and baby face"—which judgment this portrait supports. The background is especially good; * Lady Denham, the beautiful Miss Brooks, Lady of the bedchamber to the Duchess of York; * Mrs. Middleton, "La Middleton, bien faite, blonde, et blanche," one of the early favourites of Count H. de Grammont, who thus describes her; Henry Sydney, E. of Romney, with greyhounds—one of the six who signed the invitation to William of Orange; Queen Mary of Modena; Charles II.; * Algernon Sydney; Anthony, E. of Shaftesbury.

Mirevelt; Portrait of Fred. Henry of Orange, father of Wm. III.; Maurice of Orange. *More* (Sir Antony, b. 1519, d. 1576); * Philip II. of Spain, in golden armour. "A picture of great delicacy."—*Waagen.* * His own portrait, in black dress, his hand on the head of a dog. To the knees. *Mytens;* Henry, Earl of Southampton, d. 1624—the patron of Shakespeare. *Mignard;* * Duchesse de Montansier; "one of his most pleasing and most finished pictures."

Murillo; Portrait of a girl, said to be an Infanta of Spain. *Portrait of himself.

Orlay (Bernard van); * Anne of Cleves. "Very cleverly painted."—*Waagen.*

Parmegiano; The Annunciation. *Phillips* (b. 1770, d. 1825); portrait of Thomas Grenville; Charles, 2nd Earl Grey; George John, 2nd Earl Spencer, the Collector of the Library. *Pine;* Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, aged 16. *Piombo* (Sebastiano del); portraits of Michael Angelo and Giulio Romano. *Poelemburg* (Cornelius); * a masked ball. *Pourbus* (Francis, the younger). * Portrait, here called that of Henry Duke of Guise, "le Balafré." Whole-

length, size of life. "This capital picture, which is warm in colouring and animated in conception, is certainly that of the son of that Duke, since Pourbus did not go to France till after the death of the Balafré." *Poussin* (Gaspar); a small landscape.

Raffaelle; *A fragment of the cartoon of the Murder of the Innocents. "It contains the upper portion of the figure of the woman in one of the Vatican tapestries, who, full of horror, is running up a flight of steps. . . . This is without doubt a piece of the original cartoon."—*Waagen.* *A copy, on panel, of a Holy Family now in the Naples Gallery. Waagen suggests that this is the copy which, according to Vasari, was executed by Innocenzo da Imola. "The treatment and warm tone are quite his." *Rembrandt;* *The Circumcision; inscribed, and dated 1661. "Very spirited, and of striking effect." *Rembrandt's mother; seated, in rich dress; to the knees, life size. "The light reddish tone of the flesh, and the very finished execution, indicate the early period of the master." —*W.* *William III. as a boy,—a curious picture (unfinished). *Portrait of himself. *Reynolds* (Sir Joshua, b. 1723, d. 1792). There are 19 portraits by Reynolds. The most noticeable are—Georgiana, 1st Countess Spencer, with her dr., afterwards Duchess of Devonshire; *Frances, 1st Marchioness Camden—dr. and heiress of Wm. Molesworth of Wembury, Devon—a very graceful picture. *George John, 2nd Earl Spencer, when Lord Althorp, aged 17; and his son, the Lord Althorp of the Reform Bill, aged 4. *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire; full-length, descending a garden "escalier." This is the rival of the portrait of the same Duchess by Gainsborough. Duke of Devonshire, husband of Duchess Georgiana. Angelica Kauffman (oval). His own portrait; and Sir William Jones, the Orientalist. (Sir William was for five years the tutor of the 2nd Earl Spencer, who formed the library. His mother, when entrusting her son to the care of (then) Mr. Jones, said, "Make him, if you can, like yourself." *Richardson;* Portrait of the 3rd Earl of Sunderland and the 5th Earl, who became D. of Marlborough. *Romney;* Countess of Cork. *Rubens;* *The thank-offering of David on the return of the Ark. Designed for tapestry. "This sketch for a very rich composition of the master's earlier period is in every respect one of the most skilful by him that I am acquainted with."—*Waagen.* *The Infante Don Ferdinand, Governor of the Netherlands, in the dress of a Cardinal. *Portrait of Vandyck.

Teniers (David, the younger); 2 small pictures of peasant life. Pictures "in the taste of the school of the Carracci," the best of which is the *Death of Leander (twice given. The larger picture is that referred to). *Titian.* There seems to be here no true picture by Titian. Two assigned to him—a young woman, and Titian holding a mirror to a lady (differing from the Louvre picture)—are given by Waagen to *Paris Bordone.*

Vaga (Perino del, b. 1500, d. 1547); *Portrait of Cardinal Pole; white beard, white dress, black collar and cap., seated; to the knees. "The expressive character is strongly conceived."—*Waagen. Vandyck.* There are 21 pictures assigned to this master. The finest is *George Digby, 2nd Earl of Bristol, and William, Earl, and afterwards 1st Duke, of Bedford; both as youths. Whole-length figures, life size. This is a celebrated picture, and one of the noblest Vandycks in this country. The copy at Woburn is by Knapton. *Portrait of Rubens in a black dress; size of life, standing. Inscribed, "Ant. Vandyck Eques Pt." "A very elegant pic-

ture."— *Waagen.* Other portraits to be noticed are—Penelope Wriothesley, Countess Spencer, whole-length, walking, in blue dress; Anne Carr, Countess of Bedford, red dress, to the knees; Lady Eliz. Thimbleby, and Cath. Countess of Rivers—the latter receiving a basket of flowers from a Cupid; * William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle; and Rachel Ruvigny, Countess of Southampton "in a kind of apotheosis." Remark also a picture of "Dædalus and Icarus." *Vansomer;* Portraits of Sir Richard and Lady Spencer of Offley.

Walker. Portraits of General Lambert; Ch. II. as a boy; *Cromwell; Sir Thomas Fairfax; and Henry, 1st E. of Sunderland.

Zucchero. To him are assigned the portraits of Mary of Scotland, and of her husband Darnley.

Among many portraits by *unknown artists*, one of the most interesting hangs at the top of the staircase, and represents the great D. of Marlborough in comparative youth. It is said to have been the favourite portrait of the Duchess, who, having before had her husband painted as the "handsomest fair man in England," arranged that this should represent him as the handsomest "brown" man. There is, in the Long Gallery, a copy by *Raeburn* of a portrait of Edmund Spenser, author of the 'Faërie Queen.' The original is at Dupplin Castle. The poet belonged (though distantly) to this family; "I exhort them," writes Gibbon, "to consider the 'Fairy Queen' as the most precious jewel of their coronet." *An antique encaustic painting should also be noticed, "found on the wall of a sepulchral chamber near Beneventum, and cut from it in the presence of Georgiana, Countess Dowager Spencer, in 1793." The subject is a boy's head. There is at Althorp a large collection of original *Miniatures*, some by *Petitot;* and of miniature copies, by *Bone, Essex,* and others. There are many drawings by *Edridge;* and a series of chalk portraits, representing all the members of the H. of Commons who voted for the first Reform Bill. The house also contains a large and fine collection of *china.*

The *gardens* are good, but of no special character or importance. Evelyn described them as, in his day, "admirable and magnificent, furnished with the choicest fruit, and exquisitely kept. Greate plenty of oranges, and other curiosities." The flower garden at the side of the house occupies the site of a bowling green, on which King Charles, who was in the habit of riding over from Holdenby, was playing, when news was brought that a party of horse, "obscurely headed," was in sight; and the king instantly returned to Holdenby to fall into the power of Cornet Joyce (see *Holdenby, post*). There was, when Evelyn wrote, "a prospect from the park to Holmby (Holdenby) house, which, being demolished in the late civil wars, shows like a Roman ruin, shaded by the trees about it, a stately, solemn, and pleasing view." This view has been shut out by the woods of successive planters, who have in most instances recorded the date of their work by tablets and inscriptions, "the only instance," says Evelyn, "I know of the like in our country." The earliest dates are 1567 and 1568; and a long walk toward Brington Church leads through a wood planted by Sir William Spencer in 1624. On the reverse of the stone which records this are the words "Up and bee doing, and God will prosper." It is interesting to compare the size and growth of the trees with the dates at which we thus know they were planted. They are for the most part beech and elm; but many venerable oaks, older than the first recorded date of planting, shade the higher part

of the ground about the church of Brington. The *park* is thus throughout varied and well wooded. In it rises a picturesque *hawking stand*, built by the first Baron Spencer, with a range of round-headed windows in the upper story, and the arms of James I. in the gable. It has been somewhat modernised, but is still worth a visit. In the park (the exact spot is not known) Anne of Denmark and the Prince were received on their entry with a masque written by Ben Jonson. Fairies danced in a ring; and a satyr, after "a short straine with his pipe," advanced, gazing on the Queen and Prince, and exclaimed—

> "That is Cyparissus face!
> And the Dame hath Syrinx grace!
> O that Pan were now in place!
> Sure they are of heavenlie race."

The queen proceeded from Althorp to Easton Neston (see Rte. 5), where she was joined by King James, who came to meet her from London.

The *Church* of Great Brington stands high on the hill, close outside the park, and the ch.-yd. commands a very interesting and picturesque view over the S. and S.W. districts of Northamptonshire — a country far more broken and wooded than the valley of the Nen and its borders. From the ch.-yd. there is a sudden descent to the N. The tower, aisles, arcade of nave, and font are all E. Eng., dating from the last quarter of the 13th cent. The piers on the S. side of the nave are octagonal; but each side is hollowed, so that they resemble fluted columns. Some Perp. windows have been inserted in the aisles and tower. The clerestory of nave, the chancel, and the N. chapel, are all late Perp., and were built by Sir John Spencer (the first Spencer owner), who died in 1522. The work for this period is extremely good, and there is a tradition that all this Perp. work was designed by the architect of Hen. VII.'s Chapel at Westminster. A bay of 5 sides, with a long window in each, was added in 1846 by the 4th Earl Spencer, "to the memory of his father, mother, and brother" (the 2nd Earl and wife, and the 3rd Earl), and here the architecture was directly copied from Hen. VII.'s Chapel. Many of the original open seats (circ. 1450) remain in the nave; and in a window on the S. side of the chancel is a fine fragment of Perp. glass, representing the Baptist with the Holy Lamb. The altar rails are of the 17th cent. (Laudian); and there is a tradition that Charles I., when at Holdenby, received the Holy Communion here, kneeling at the N. side. On the S. side of the nave is an *external* monumental arch, with canopy, and the effigy of an ecclesiastic, possibly that of William de Grendon, a rector who died in 1275, and who may have assisted in the building of the E. Eng. church. The church, as might have been expected, is especially rich in *Spencer monuments*, all of which deserve attention. They are in the North, or Spencer Chapel. (1) The earliest (at the E. end, under arch), that of Sir John Spencer, d. 1522, and his wife, Isabella Graunt, is late, but pure Perp., with a very rich canopy, and effigies on an altar-tomb. He is in plate-armour, bare-headed, with a tabard charged with the Spencer arms, and an outer robe of scarlet lined with green. She wears the reticulated head-dress. On the canopy, and in the panels, there is a great display of heraldry. (2) A plain altar-tomb against the N. wall (without effigies), for Sir Wm. Spencer (son of the former) and wife. He died 1532. (3) Under the central arch, the elaborate monument of Sir John Spencer, d. 1586, and wife, Katherine, dr. of Sir Thomas Kitson of Hengrave. Here all Gothic has been swept away. The design is Elizabethan, with a pyramidal pillar at each angle of the tomb, an enta-

blature loaded with heraldry, and a moorhen, one of the ancient crests of Spencer, at one end. He is in plate-armour, with a ruff; she has an enormous hollow hood raised over her head, and is further accommodated with a kind of coverlet, rolled down to her waist. (4) In front of the north-east window repose Sir John Spencer, d. 1599, and wife, Mary Catlin. The design is somewhat less elaborate. The lady, in black, has also a large fluted hood. (5) Under the western arch are the effigies of Robert, first Baron Spencer, d. 1627, and his wife, Margaret, dr. of Sir Francis Willoughby of Wollaton. He is in a rich suit of plate-armour, with helmet plumed and the visor up. The lady has a hood considerably larger than those of the earlier effigies, and is covered with an heraldic counterpane. (There is a tradition that this well-protected dame was the "inventress of board wages.") The canopy of the monument should be noticed. (6) Opposite is a monument of black-and-white marble, for the 2nd Baron Spencer, d. 1636, and wife, Penelope Wriothesley, dr. of the 3rd E. of Southampton. This is by Nicholas Stone, and cost 600*l.*, the largest sum received by him for any of his works. The effigies, however, were by his workmen, Hargrave and White, who got respectively 14*l.* and 15*l.* The baron is in robes of state; the lady richly dressed, with veil and ermine mantle. (7) In the S.E. angle of the chapel is a monument for Sir Edward Spencer, youngest son of Robt. Baron S., who died in 1655. His bust, in plate-armour with a curious allegorical design, rises out of an inscribed urn. (8) Against the E. window (built up) is a mont. for John, 1st Earl Spencer, d. 1783. This is by *Nollekens*, from a design by Cipriani, and represents Benevolence "standing in the clouds," and suspending a medallion with a profile. The verses beneath are by Lord Spencer's son-in-law, the D. of Devonshire. Below is a beautiful design by *Flaxman*, a memorial of Georgiana, wife of the 1st Earl, d. 1814. There are figures of Faith and Charity, and an inscription from *Proverbs*, "She spreadeth out her hands to the poor." In the windows of the bay, erected by the 4th Earl in 1846, are medallions of the 2nd Earl, George John, founder of the library, and of the 3rd Earl, John Charles, the Lord Althorp of the Reform Bill. Below is a *brass* with inscription for the 4th Earl. Frederick, and a bust of Sir Robert Spencer, by *Chantrey*. The heart of the 1st Earl of Sunderland, who fell at Newbury, was brought here, and his widow, Waller's Sacharissa, was buried in this church, but there is no memorial for either earl or countess. The whole series of monuments illustrates in a very remarkable manner the changes in the art and fashion of such memorials from the time of the first Sir John Spencer to that of the present earl.

Two records of the *Washingtons* must be noticed before leaving the church. In the chancel is a slab for Lawrence Washington, d. 1616,—the great great grandfather of George Washington. This Lawrence Washington, with his father, came to Brington from Sulgrave (see Rte. 6), and his 2nd son, John, emigrated to America. On the tomb slab here are the lines,—

"Thou that by chance or choyce of this hath sight,
Know life to death resigns as day to night;
But as the sunns reterne revives the day,
So Christ shall us though turned to dust and clay."

In the nave is a slab with inscription for "Eliz. Washington, widowe," 1522, and Robert W., "her late husband," d. 1622, "after they lived lovingly together many yeares in this parish." This Robert Washington (father of Lawrence, who died before him) was 2nd son of Robt. W. of Sulgrave. The arms of Washington,

with their "stars and stripes," are noticed in Rte. 6 (*Sulgrave*). A house in the village of Little Brington is pointed out as that occupied by the Washingtons.

The picturesque and excellent *rectory* was built, circ. 1829, from the designs of *Edward Blore*. The modern chapel of St. John at Little Brington is by *Hardwicke*, and is good. There is another portion of the parish known as *Newbottle* (*botl.*, = a dwelling-place, A.S.), a name which must have been given in distinction from the "Old thorp" (Althorp) adjoining. For some unknown reason, Newbottle wood or "grove" gives name to the hundred.

Returning to the main road, at a distance of ½ m. beyond Althorp, a road turns rt. to (1 m.) *Holdenby* (generally called *Holmby*), the old manor-house of which place was, as we have seen, at one time visible from Althorp. It is of great interest, both as an example of Elizabethan domestic architecture (although half ruined and half restored), and as the place where Charles I. passed into the hands of Cornet Joyce. The site, too, is one of great beauty. "The slope of the ground, which declines from it on all sides, offers a succession of the richest and most pastoral views. . . . Like the rolling prairie of the far West, valley after valley of sunny meadows, dotted with oak and elm, undulates in ceaseless variety far as the eye can reach; but unlike the boundless prairie, deep dark copses and thick luxuriant hedgerows . . . diversify the foreground and blend the distance into a mass of woodland beauty."—*Whyte Melville* (who in his story of 'Holmby House' has illustrated all this country).

Holdenby (Aldenhesbi in Domesday) was held from the beginning of the 13th cent. by a family which took its name from the place. It passed out of the male line early in the 16th cent., and then came, through Elizabeth Holdenby, to the Hattons, one of whom she had married. Sir Christopher Hatton, Elizabeth's Lord Chancellor, was born here in 1540, and Holdenby became his on the death of his elder brother. His representative, another Sir Christopher, sold Holdenby (1607) to the King, James I., with remainder to Charles, his 2nd son. During the civil war the place was seized by the Parliament in common with other royal estates, and much injury, it is asserted, was done at this time to the woods. It was then sold to one Adam Baynes, of Knowsthorp, in Yorksh., who devastated what had been left of the woods, and pulled down the main house, leaving only gateways and a portion of the offices. The crown lands were resumed at the Restoration, and Charles II. gave Holdenby to his brother James, who sold it to Lewis Duras, created Baron Holdenby, and afterwards E. of Feversham, which titles became extinct on his death, in 1709. Holdenby was then bought by the great Duke of Marlborough, and the 3rd Duke sold it to his son-in-law, H. W. Agar Ellis, 2nd Viscount Clifden. It is now the property of the 5th Lord Clifden (a minor), and the remains of the house have been restored (1875) under the direction of Mr. *R. H. Carpenter*.

Sir Christopher Hatton, the chancellor, whose

> "bushy beard and satin doublet
> Moved the stout heart of England's queen,
> Though Pope and Spaniard could not trouble it,"

built two great houses in Northamptonshire, Holdenby and Kirby. Holdenby lay long in ruin, and only a fragment remained to be restored. Kirby is still (so far as the walls are concerned) perfect, but is abandoned, and falling into decay (see Rte. 10). The Lord Chancellor esteemed Holdenby "the last and greatest monument of his youth," and, writing to Sir Thos. Heneage, in 1580, he says

he had determined "to take my pilgrimage to Sir Ed. Bricknell's (*sic*, Brudenell's at Dene) to view my house of Kirby, which I yet never surveyed, leaving my other shrine, I mean Holdenbye, still unseen, until that holy saint may sit in it, to whom it is dedicated." "That holy saint," Queen Elizabeth, never, however, visited Holdenby; and Sir Christopher Hatton himself was not, it would seem, often here, although it was in this house that he celebrated, in 1589, the marriage of his nephew and heir, Sir William Newport, who took the name of Hatton, with the dr. of Judge Gawdy. "My Lord Chancellor," writes a Captain Allen, "danced the measures at the solemnity. He left the gown in the chair, saying, 'Lie thou there, Chancellor.'" (His skill as a dancer first recommended him to the notice of the queen; but he never "led the brawls" at Stoke Pogeis; which place, in spite of Gray's 'Long Story,' did not belong to him. See *Sir Harris Nicholas*, 'Life and Times of Hatton,' 1847). James I. was occasionally at Holdenby, liking the Northamptonshire hunting, for which the place was convenient; but no royal visit was so remarkable as that of Charles I., who, after his surrender of himself to the Scotch army, and his delivery to the English Parliament, was brought here virtually as a prisoner. He left Newcastle, Jan. 30, 1646–7, attended by the Parliamentary Commissioners and the few followers who were allowed him, and guarded by 900 horse and dragoons; and reached Holdenby, Feb. 15, having been somewhat retarded "by reason of white weather." Holdenby had been fixed on as "capacious, and in the heart of the kingdom," where the king could be well looked after. Hundreds of the gentry met the royal cavalcade near Harborough, the roads were thronged with spectators, and the king entered his own palace of Holdenby with all the state of royalty. As soon as Charles was settled at Holdenby, he wrote to the Parliament, begging to be allowed the attendance of some of his chaplains, whose advice he desired to have in the discussion of questions which, as he knew, were about to be laid before him. This was refused. The Parliamentary Commissioners, among whom were the E. of Pembroke, the E. of Denbigh, and Lord Montagu, had their own chaplains, who preached in the chapel every Sunday, when Charles remained in seclusion, and he would not allow these Presbyterian divines to say grace at his table, but did so always himself, "standing under the state." Every mark of external respect was, however, paid to him. Two or three hours every day he gave to reading and religious exercises. He usually played chess after dinner; but his favourite recreation was bowling, and as the green at Holdenby was out of order, he sometimes rode to Althorp, where he found the "bias" not true, and so to Boughton (Lord Vaux's,—see Rte. 8) for the sake of a game. There was a long walk in the garden here, which he often used, accompanied by one or more of the Commissioners, and its site is still known as "the King's Walk." Attempts were made to convey private information to him: one by Major Bosville, who, disguised as a fisherman, met the king at Brampton ford, on his way to Broughton, and another by Mrs. Cave, dr. of Wm. Cave of Stanford (see Rte. 13). Both failed. At length (June 2, 1647) the Commissioners informed the Parliament that a party of 700 horse had arrived at Kingsthorpe (close to Northampton, Rte. 1) from the army, then assembling on Triplow Heath, and that it was reported they intended seizing the king. But their letter was too late. On the same day Charles proceeded to Althorp, where he took part in a game at bowls, and word was then brought him that an un-

known party of horse was on its way to Holdenby. He at once returned. The troops, however, headed by Cornet Joyce, rendezvoused that night on Harleston Heath, and, soon after midnight, advancing into the park, began to surround the house of Holdenby. The gates had been closed, and preparations made for defence; but the governor of Holdenby, Col. Graves, escaped secretly, believing that his own capture was one of the objects of the attack. At break of day (June 3rd), the troops from Harleston appeared, drawn up in front of the great gates of the back yard, and the soldiers in charge of the king, who were stationed there, instead of opposing, flung back the gates, and received them with open arms. They remained quiet the whole of the next day. At 10 o'clock at night it was resolved, "for the peace sake of the kingdom," that the king should be removed at once. Cornet Joyce demanded an instant audience of Charles, and appeared at his bedroom door "with a cocked pistol in his hand." The king was disturbed by the noise, and refused to see him until the morning, "which being told the Cornet, he huff'd, but retired." At 6 in the morning the troops were drawn up in the principal court, and the king presenting himself, a conversation followed between Joyce and King Charles in the hearing of the soldiers. It ended by the king's asking for Joyce's commission, who answered, pointing to the troops, that "it lay behind him." "That," replied Charles, smiling, "is a fair and well-written commission, legible without spelling." The Commissioners protested, but resistance was idle, and the king "being seated in his coach, called into it the Earls of Pembroke and Denbigh," and the whole company at once set forth, reaching Hinchinbrook, near Huntingdon, the same evening. Holdenby was the last place at which Charles enjoyed anything like personal liberty. It has been more than once asserted that his departure was the result of a private arrangement between the king and the adjutators of the army. But this has still to be proved.

Holdenby House was, according to tradition, built by that mysterious "John of Padua" who is said to have been the architect of Longleat and of Wollaton, but of whose real doings so little is known. It was at any rate built, as Hatton writes (1579) to Lord Burghley, "in direct observation" (imitation) "of your house and plot at Tyball's" = Theobald's; and Burghley who in the same year passed a night at Holdenby in Hatton's absence, writes to Sir Christopher:—"Approaching the house, being led by a large, long, straight, fair way, I found a great magnificence in the front or front pieces of the house, and so every part answerable to other, to allure liking. I found no one thing of greater grace than your stately ascent from your hall to your great chamber. . . And where you were wont to say it was a young Theobalds, truly Theobalds I like as my own, but I confess . . . it no otherwise worthy in any comparison than a foil." Sir Thomas Heneage, writing in 1583, describes Holdenby as "the best and most considerate house that yet mine eyes have ever seen." "It shall hold the pre-eminence of all the modern houses I have known or heard of in England." "There is nothing pleaseth me better," he adds, "than your park, which you dispraised; your green and base court that you devised; and your garden, which is most rare." It is clear that Holdenby, in its perfection, was no unworthy rival of Burghley or Hatfield. The house was of vast size, and disposed in 2 quadrangles, of which the foundations may still be traced. Two gateways remain, which formerly stood on each side of the quadrangle, in the front of the house.

The gatehouse, which stood at right angles to these, and opposite the front door, is all gone, except foundations. From this gatehouse a noble avenue of trees stretched away toward Brampton. These arches are good examples of the half-Italian renaissance: and on both the date 1585. It was between these gateways that the troops of Cornet Joyce were found drawn up on the morning of June 3; and down the main avenue that the king departed. The present house is almost the whole of the N. side of the inner court, which contained little more than offices. It has some good chimneys, and woodwork, and has been well restored and arranged. The "King's walk" ran along the outside of the house, where the ground slopes toward the church. It formed part of the garden described by Morton in his 'Northamptonshire,' written soon after the house was built. "Above the rest is especially to be noated, with what industrye and toyle of man, the garden hath been raised, levelled, and formed out of a most craggye and unprofitable grounde, now framed a most pleasante, sweete, and princely place, with divers walks, manie ascendings and descendings, replenished also with manie delightful trees of fruite, artificially composed arbors, and a destillery house." The house itself he calls "a very beautiful building, erected with such uniformity and so answerably contrived as for the quantity and quality is not to be matched in this land. In the hall theare are raised three peramides very high standing instead of a shryne, the midst whereof ascendeth unto the roof of the hall, and on them are depainted the armes of all the gentlemen of the same shyre, and of all the noblemen of this land." As to how far Holdenby resembled Kirby (still remaining) in its architecture Mr. A. Hartshorne has ascertained, by careful measurements, that the same templates were used for the mouldings of the chimneys and windows of both of these houses.

The older house stood in the hollow to the S. close to the *Church*, which is late Dec., with a chancel of E.-Eng. character rebuilt in 1848 from a design by Sir Henry Dryden. The nave was restored by *Scott* in 1868. The screen originally belonged to the great hall of the mansion. There are inscriptions at the W. end of the S. aisle, and again in the N., which are from the 'Bishops' Bible,' and have borders which may have been designed by John of Padua. Observe a very peculiar piscina, with a hollow passing upwards into the wall. There is a monument for Wm. Holdenby (d. 1490) and wife,—incised figures on a slab of alabaster; and some brass tablets with inscriptions in Latin verse for Hattons,—one for Wm. Hatton, a younger brother of Sir Christopher (Sir C. H. himself, who died in 1591, aged 51, at his house in Ely Place (Hatton Garden, which Elizabeth forced from the Bp. of Ely), was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral). In the churchyard is a heavy marble monument for members of the Clifden family, and the monument of the late Rev. C. H. Hartshorne, and on the S. side of the tower is the tomb of the late Baron Alderson, father of the present (1877) rector.

The country between Althorp and *East Haddon* (about 2 m. on the road, is pleasant, and well wooded. The *Church* of E. Haddon was at first a Norm. building, but was much altered, first in the Dec., then in the Perp. period. The Dec. chancel arch rests on Norm. piers, with engaged shafts, and sculptured caps.; and the font is Norm. with curious sculpture (the figure of a man between 2 birds whose heads appear under his arms). The tower was rebuilt in 1673. (1½ m. S.W. is *Long Buckby*, where the church, E. Eng. and Dec. was restored in 1863. On one of the bells is the inscription—

"If at my sound you don't prepare,
You are not inclined to come to prayer.")

The road soon begins to ascend the higher ridges on the border of the county. Rt. (1½ m.) is *Ravensthorpe*, with a very early Dec. W. tower, some original seating, and a large and curious chest (Dec.), covered with thin plates of iron crossing each other at right angles. At 1½ m. from Northampton we reach *West Haddon*, where is a church originally Dec. but much altered in Perp. times. The nave is unusually wide, the chancel arch lofty, and there is a large Perp. clerestory. The most interesting object in the ch. is the *font*, of late Norm. (almost E. Eng.) character, square, with heads at the corners, and a band of sculpture between them, representing events from the life of our Lord. From the 12th cent. this church belonged to the Priory of Daventry. There was until of late (it has been quite removed) a large tumulus in W. Haddon field, called *Ostor Hill;* and it has been conjectured that it marked the burial-place of Publius Ostorius, Proprætor of Britain under Claudius. The place of his death is, however, quite uncertain. Another 2½ m. brings us to *Crick* (*cerrig*, A.S. = a stone, rock, crag. So Cricklade, in Wiltshire, is named either from some important stone, or from the rough, stony character of the "lade" or ford which there crosses the Thames, where the ch. well deserves a visit. (There is a station on the Lond. and N.W. Rly. known as the *Crick Station*, but it is 3 m. S. of the village, and is really the station for Watford; see Rte. 4.) The church consists of W. tower and spire, nave and aisles, and deep chancel. The S. door, lower parts of aisle walls, 2 pillars and one arch, S. side of nave, are E. Eng.: the tower and spire show a change to Dec.; the chancel, much of the aisles, all the N. arcade and 2 piers and arches S. are pure flowing Dec., and of great beauty. The clerestory is Perp. The E. and other windows of the chancel, and the N. and S. chancel doors call for special attention, from their graceful design and finish. The chancel arch, wide and lofty, springs from brackets, with heads of a king and bishop. The corbels of the chancel windows are curious, and should be noticed. There are very rich sedilia and piscina. The font, a cylindrical bowl, covered with rounded figures, rests on 3 monsters or dwarfs. The early Dec. tower and spire are much enriched with ball-flower, and the cusping of the belfry windows is very characteristic. The arms of Astley (a cinquefoil) appear in many parts of the church. The earliest portions of the church are probably due to the Camvilles, who had much property here, which passed (at a period before the addition of the tower) to the Astleys of Warwickshire; and to Sir Thomas Astley (living temp. Edw. II. and III.), the chancel and the portions of the same date may safely be assigned. In 1338 he founded a chantry in the par. church of Astley, which he afterwards made collegiate, and began to rebuild. The choir of Astley remains, and has all the peculiarities, even to the sections of the mouldings, to be noted in the chancel of Crick.

½ m. beyond Crick the high road crosses the old line of the Watling Street, which is visible for at least half a mile in either direction. Crick, it may be added, is the terminus of the "long race" of the boys of Rugby school.

The border of Northamptonshire is here passed, and with a curve southward, and a bend again to the N. we reach (20 m. from Northampton) *Rugby* (See *Hdbk. for Warwickshire*).

ROUTE 8.

NORTHAMPTON TO MARKET HARBOROUGH.

(London and North Western Rly.)

SPRATTON TO WELFORD—BY ROAD—(NASEBY).

Leaving Northampton from the *Castle Station*, the rly. winds toward the N.W., and reaches, in 10 min.,

Brampton Stat., from which Brampton on one hand, and Boughton on the other, may be visited. The village of *Church Brampton* is nearly 2 m. from the station l., and stands pleasantly in a wooded and somewhat broken country. The *Church* (ded. to S. Botolf), admirably kept, has a late Dec. nave, and a chancel (of similar character), built since 1850 on the foundations of the old one. There are some modern windows of stained glass. The most interesting object in the church, however, is a chest, much ornamented with iron work, and no doubt of the 13th cent. (The cope chests in York Minster have iron work of similar character. See the Brampton chest figured in 'Gloss. of Archit.') *Boughton*, 1½ m. rt., is only noticeable from its former importance. A considerable fair was held here at midsummer, which attracted all the neighbouring farmers and gentry; and Boughton House, long pulled down, was a seat of the Greens and Wentworths; and afterwards of Lord Vaux. (The Greens, of Green's Norton, took, it is said, their name from the village-green of Boughton. See Green's Norton, Rte. 5. There is a curious maze cut on the green.) The old church of Boughton has shared the fate of the house. That which exists is without interest. The obelisk, seen on its hill-top from all the surrounding country, stands in what was once the park of Boughton, and was raised to the memory of a Duke of Devonshire.

The rly. curves round to the N. from Brampton, and very shortly reaches

Spratton Stat. [The church of *Pitsford*, rt., has an E. E. tower, and a remarkable Norm. portal and font. The rest is Dec.]

The *Church* and village of Spratton stand high on their hill, and the former is a good landmark. It is interesting, and well deserves a visit. The interior was restored in 1847; the spire taken down and rebuilt in 1870. The building is Trans.-Norm., with later changes and additions. The tower is much enriched, in the belfry stage and in that below it, with arcades of pointed arches. A Perp. parapet rests on the original corbel table of heads. The W. door has a semicirc. head, with zigzags and grotesques. In the nave are 5 bays; the N. arcade is of the same date as the tower, with round piers and arches. The S. arcade is early Dec., with round piers and pointed arches. The font is Trans.-Norm. The chancel, at first Dec., was much altered in the Perp. period. Under the arches which divide the N. chantry from the chancel are 2 altar-tombs. The westernmost bears the effigy of a knight in camail and jupon, with a collar of SS. On the tomb the arms of Swinford occur 3 times; and the effigy is undoubtedly that of Sir John Swinford, who married the heiress of the Ardens, and died in 1371. The arms of Arden occur 3 times on the tomb. The iron railings are coeval. The other tomb is plain, and there is a third in the N. aisle. The Ardens long

held the manor. At *Spratton Hall*, standing at the N. end of the village, is a very large and remarkable dovecot, perhaps of the 14th cent., and built in the form of a cross with equal arms. *Spratton Grange* (A. A. Berens, Esq.) is a modern house.

Spratton lies on the high road from Northampton to Welford and Market Harborough: and the places of interest which occur between Spratton and Welford may best be described here. *Creaton*, 1 m. on this road, has a small church, with Dec. and Perp. portions, restored in 1857. That of *Hollowell*, 1 m. l., was built in 1840 by the Rev. J. D. Watson, then rector. The road is soon bordered by the park of *Cottesbrooke Hall* (Sir James Hay Langham, Bart.). There is here much wood, and the whole scene is pleasant. The house is of the time of George II., and handsome. The *Church* stands picturesquely in a wooded dell, a little east of the village. It is throughout early Dec., except the walls above the windows of the nave, which are Perp. The general design is good, and the tower is especially noticeable for the excellence of its simple details. The shields on the parapet carry the arms of Butvileyn. There is a large modern Langham monument in the chancel; and some others for members of this family, which acquired Cottesbrooke in the reign of Charles I. 1 m. l. of the road is *Guilsborough*, where the church has an E. E. tower, with a Dec. broach spire. The rest of the church was Dec., but it has been much altered, and was restored, partly in 1815, partly about 1840. There is a *Grammar School* here of some note, founded in 1688 by Sir John Langham, of Cottesbrooke. The building contains a remarkable staircase of carved oak, very massive and solid, which rises in a square the whole height of the house. In the neighbourhood are *Guilsborough Grange* (Lady Eleanor Clifton) and *Guilsborough Hall*. On the latter estate is a large Roman encampment, called the *Burroughs:* a parallelogram of 600 ft. by 300 ft., having a single fosse and vallum, and comprising an area of about 8 acres. It occupies the crest of a hill between the sources of the Avon and the Nene, and gives name not only to the parish, but to the hundred of Guilsborough.

There is nothing to be noted at Thornby or Cold Ashby; but here we turn off to the rt. in order to visit the historical ground of *Naseby*. (It should be said that the village and battle-field lie about 3 m. N. from Guilsborough, and nearly the same distance S.W. from Welford. The distance from Market Harborough is 6 m. This is the best point from which to drive to Naseby, and indeed no carriage can be procured nearer. A pedestrian may very well walk from Welford or Guilsborough.)

The plateau, or high table-land on which Naseby stands, is the central watershed of England. On it are the springs of the Avon, the Nen, the Welland, and many lesser streams; the Avon (Shakespeare's Avon) flowing westward to join the Severn; the Nen and the Welland running north and east into the German Ocean. The ground is locally said to be the "highest in England;" for the "Middle Angles" who settled here, knew nothing, like their descendants, of such hills as Ingleborough or Helvellyn. The actual heights are—at Naseby Church, 667 ft., and at the base of the obelisk, which has been raised at no great distance, 697 ft. These points are higher than the field of the battle, N. of them. This, however, is no doubt one of the loftiest plateaux in the country, and is high

enough to command very extensive views in all directions. The ridges of Edgehill (see Rte. 5) are visible in the distance S.W. Edgehill (Oct. 23, 1642) was the first battle of the Civil War, and the traditions and local recollections concerning it are more numerous than those of Naseby (June 14, 1645), the last great fight, and that in which the fate of the king was really decided. Between the two battles there had been others, such as Marston Moor, and such constant skirmishes and sieges as to have familiarized the people to war and its horrors. Hence Naseby made less impression than Edgehill.

On the 7th of May, 1645, the King and Prince Rupert left Oxford, and took the field, hoping to raise the siege of Chester. Hearing this, the "Committee" then sitting in London ordered Fairfax with his army of the "new model," then in the west, to return at once and invest Oxford. This was done. Charles advanced to Leicester and took it by storm; then, learning that Oxford was blockaded, he turned southward for the relief of that place, and established his headquarters at the Wheatsheaf Inn at Daventry (see Rte. 4). Fairfax marched to meet him from before Oxford, and (June 12) encamped at Kislingbury, 5 m. E. of the position of the royal army, on Borough Hill, above Daventry (see Rte. 4). Charles was riding from the "Wheatsheaf" to hunt a buck in the park of Fawsley, when he received news that the new model army was close at hand. A council of war was called, and it was determined to march away for Market Harborough, and to proceed toward Pontefract (then besieged), so as to avoid a battle. But this Fairfax was resolved to press. He rode out himself on the night between the 12th and 13th, which was dark and rainy, and proceeding within a mile of the village of Floore (Rte. 4), saw the blaze of the huts on Borough Hill, set on fire by the Royalists as they left them, and heard the rumble of carts and the heavy tramp of men and horses. He then knew that the king's army was marching away north. (On the return of Fairfax to camp he found that he had forgotten the pass-word, and was stopped for some time by one of his own sentries.) Early on the morning of the 13th Harrison was sent with a troop of horse to Daventry, and Ireton was despatched to hang on the king's rear. Cromwell arrived at headquarters, with his regiment (not of the new model); and the same night Fairfax encamped at Guilsborough (see *ante*). The van and main body of the Royalists had reached Market Harborough. The king was in a house at Lubbenham (see Rte. 13); there was a detachment at Lutterworth, and a rearguard of horse at Naseby. On these last Ireton fell in the middle of the night, and took many of them prisoners. A few escaped to Lubbenham, and roused the king, who dressed at two in the morning of the 14th, and rode off to Market Harborough, where Rupert was quartered. Here, in a long low room of the King's Head Inn, a council of war was held. Retreat was impossible; and although Rupert disapproved, Charles resolved to face about and give battle. Fairfax advanced from Guilsborough at dawn, and at 5 A.M. was in the village of Naseby.

"The Naseby plateau extends from the village northwards to beyond Sibbertoft, where the hills slope down to the valley of the Welland. The plateau consists of a succession of low rolling hills with intervening valleys. 'A place of little hills and vales, the ground, some ploughed, some champein' as one of the combatants described it. N. of the village there is a slight depression, the ground rising again to Mill Hill,

which is a mile from the church. Thence the ground slopes gently down in three successive waves, and finally rises again to Dust Hill. The distance between the tops of Dust and Mill Hills is about a mile, and the intervening space, called Broadmoor, was the battle-field. The continuation of Mill Hill to the W., was then called Red-pit Hill." A double fence, with the hedge, forming the boundary between the parishes of Naseby and Sulby, stretched across from the base of Dust Hill to Red-Pit Hill. (See *Markham's* 'Life of Fairfax,' where will be found the best modern account of the battle, with an excellent ground-plan.)

Charles marched from Harborough at about 7 in the morning, and approached Naseby over the hill of Sibbertoft, appearing on the slope of Dust Hill about the same time as the army of the Parliament reached Mill Hill, opposite. Prince Rupert had then command of the king's forces, of which the main battle consisted of regiments of infantry formed in *tertias*, or solid squares of pikemen flanked by musketeers. These were under the command of Sir Jacob Astley; "an honest, brave, and plain man," says Clarendon, "and as fit for the office he exercised of major-general of foot as Christendom yielded." The cavalry flanked him on either side, the right commanded by Rupert, and divided into 2 brigades under Prince Maurice and the Earl of Northampton; the l. by Sir Marmaduke Langdale. In the rear of Astley's main battle was a reserve of horse under Col. Howard, and farther in the rear again, the main body of the reserves under the Earl of Lindsay, whose father received his death wound at Edgehill. The whole Royalist army numbered about 5520 horse and 5300 foot; but there were many hundreds of camp followers. They had halted at Sibbertoft, when the king, in complete armour, with his drawn sword in his hand, rode along the line and asked the men whether they were ready to fight for him? The answer was "All! All!" —with ringing cheers.

Fairfax's centre was formed of squares of infantry under General Skippon. The left wing of cavalry was under Ireton; the right under Cromwell. Sulby Hedges were lined by Colonel Okey with his dismounted dragoons. Fairfax himself "was everywhere as occasion required." The word of the Parliamentarians was, "God our strength!" that of the Royalists, "Queen Mary!" The Royalists all wore bean-stalks in their hats; the others had no distinguishing mark, though some had a bit of paper or linen "stuck in their bands."

Fairfax at length gave the order to advance, and between 10 and 11 o'clock the armies met in Broadmoor. Rupert's wing at once routed that of Ireton, to which he was opposed; and his troopers, following the evil precedent of Edgehill, galloped to the rear of the Parliamentary army, and began plundering the waggons. Okey then ordered his dragoons to mount, and prepare for work. Meanwhile on the Parliamentary right, Cromwell had completely routed Langdale's horse, and Fairfax, who had led with Cromwell, left the pursuit to him, and returned to the struggle between the main battles. This was fierce for a time, and Skippon himself was wounded; but the arrival of Fairfax, and the sudden appearance of Okey with his dragoons, decided the fate of the Royalists, who fell into utter confusion, and their centre was utterly routed. The last square of the Royalists was broken by Doyley and Fairfax. Rupert at last led his troops back to the field, but to no purpose. The Royal reserve of horse, with the king as their leader, made a gallant attempt to recover the day; but a second line of battle was formed by Fairfax, and although Charles cried out "Face about once more!—give

one charge more and recover the day!" and was on the point of dashing forward, the Earl of Carnwath, laying hand on his bridle, cried "Will you go upon your death in an instant?" —the horse was turned, there was a sudden panic, and the whole body of Royalists fled at a gallop, every man shifting for himself. It is impossible to deny the truth of Clarendon's words—"Courage was only to be relied on, where all conduct failed so much"—and the incapacity of Rupert's generalship was never more completely shown. On the other hand the judgment and military skill of Fairfax are just as conspicuous. He ordered that no horse soldier was to dismount for plunder, but that the cavalry was at once to follow the king's flying army. Some were overtaken in a deep ravine near Sibbertoft, called Hellecombe, and there sold their lives dearly. Another party was cut to pieces at the ch.-yd. gates of Marston Trussell (their bones, some buttons, and a knife, were recently found buried in the clay by the chancel wall). Cromwell chased the main body to within 2 m. of Leicester. The king never drew rein till he reached Ashby-de-la Zouch, 28 m. distant, and then went on to Lichfield. About 1000 Royalists were killed, 700 in battle, and 300 in the pursuit. 4500 prisoners were taken, besides stands of arms, colours, 200 waggons laden with stores, the king's coach, with his cabinet of correspondence, and all his household servants. The victors lost, it is asserted, not more than 200 men. The battle lasted about 3 hours. A number of Irishwomen followed the royal camp, and of them, but without the knowledge of Fairfax, 100 were killed, and the others slashed and disfigured. "Six coaches full of ladies," and some respectable women in the waggons were, we are told, treated with consideration. There is a local tradition that many wives of officers were killed in the pursuit;—but this seems to be a confusion with the story of the Irish "harpies" as they were called. The letters seized in the king's coach disclosed his correspondence with the Irish Royalists and others. A committee was appointed by Parliament to open and report upon them; and their contents, no less than the issue of the battle, went to ruin his cause. He was never again able to take the field at the head of an army; but, as Sir Philip Warwick says, "was like a hunted partridge, flitting from one castle to another."

There are few local relics, and few traditions, of this famous battle. The *Sulby Hedges*, lined by Okey's dragoons may still be traced, and are perhaps much the same as in 1645, when the rest of the field was unenclosed. The Parliamentary officers were, it is said, buried under the tower of Naseby Church, where some bones have been found; and the table at which the Royalist horse were carousing in a house at Naseby, when they were overtaken by Ireton's troopers, is preserved at *Naseby Woolleys* (G. A. Ashby, Esq.). The bodies of the slain were for the most part buried in pits on the battlefield, marked at present by the sinking of the earth, and the fringe of brambles which surrounds them. Bullets are frequently turned up in ploughing. A stone obelisk with an inscription well intended but ill-judged, was raised near the church in 1823 by John Fitzgerald, Esq.

It is worth adding here that Dr. Arnold and Mr. Carlyle went over the ground together in 1842.

Naseby *Church*, restored in 1860, is without interest, unless we except the curious stilted pillars on the N., and the good caps. S. Both are Dec. The church had long a truncated spire on which was fixed a hollow ball of copper, brought from Boulogne by Sir Giles Allingham, when that town was taken by the

English, temp. Hen. VIII. He placed it on his house at Horseheath in Cambridgeshire; and when that was pulled down it came into the hands of Mr. Ashby, who fastened it on the spire. It was removed (but given to the parish, and may still be seen) when the spire was completed in 1860. It may be noted that two of the bells are inscribed "God save the king," and "Auspice Regno" round the royal arms. On two others the device is King Charles on horseback, with an inscription and the date 1633. There is some modern stained glass in the church.

The Avon rises at *Avon Well*, very near the church, W. The source of the *Nen* is a little farther off by the side of the road which runs E. The *Welland* rises in the cellar of Sibbertoft vicarage, 3 m. N. The Rev. Thomas James, Canon of Peterborough, who died in 1864, and was the author of many valuable works, including an excellent account of Northamptonshire (printed in the 'Quarterly Review') was for some years vicar of Sibbertoft, and an inscription bears that the roof of the N. aisle was restored as a memorial of him. There is also a memorial window for Canon James in the chancel. The church has been carefully and well restored. On Fox Hill, N.E. of the village is an entrenchment of some extent.

Returning to the road at Thornby, a journey of 3 m. brings us to *Welford*, where the *Church* is of some interest. It was thoroughly restored in 1872 "as a memorial of Lieut.-Col. the Hon. F. W. C. Villiers of Sulby Hall." The S. aisle was then rebuilt, and a S. porch erected—the whole under the direction of the then vicar, the Rev. G. Ayliffe Poole, everywhere known as a learned ecclesiologist. The N. arcade of the nave is E. E. circ. 1240; the S. is new. The chancel is Perp., except the eastern bay with its window, which was allowed to remain when the rest was rebuilt, circ. 1430. Remark in the chancel the large unwieldy heads, serving as corbels; and (especially) the modern decorations, very striking and harmonious, all executed by the hand of Mr. Poole. There is some very good modern glass by *Usher and Kelly*. The *tower*, early Perp., is an excellent example of a type common in this immediate neighbourhood,—the best being that of Church Langton in Leicestershire. All have shallow pilaster-like buttresses clasping the angles, and terminating about the middle of the belfry stage; good W., and excellent belfry windows, sometimes in pairs, marked gurgoyles, and fine nave arches. About 2 m. is the site of *Sulby Abbey*, founded for Premonstratensians by Wm. de Widville, circ. 1115. There are no traces but the lines of foundations, 2 coffins, and the gracefully designed coffin lid (with floriated cross and staff) of an abbot, circ. 1250. *Sulby Hall* (Lady Eliz. Villiers) was built about 1795 after a design by *Soane*.

We return to the rly. at Spratton, and in 3 minutes reach the next station at

Brixworth: a place which the archæologist will of course visit, and will find the labours of his pilgrimage amply rewarded. The object of interest is the church, constructed at an early period from the remains of an important Roman building. The church was "restored" in 1866; but its previous condition has been duly recorded, and the restoration has brought to light the ancient features in a very remarkable manner. (Brixworth Church has been described and figured by Britton ('Archit. Antiq.') and by Rickman. There is also an excellent paper by the Rev. G. Ayliffe Poole in the Reports for

1850 of the Assoc. Archit. Societies; and the late vicar, the Rev. C. F. Watkins, to whom the restoration is due, has written a 'Description and History' of the building.)

Brixworth (Briclesworde in Domesday) was one of the earliest possessions of Medeshamstede (Peterborough); and according to a passage quoted by Leland from some unknown chronicler, a cell attached to the great monastery was founded here either by the Abbot Saxulf or some immediate successor. In the 13th cent. the rectory was given to Salisbury Cathedral, the chancellor of which cathedral held it as his prebend until quite recently. The church, which stands high and well, with fine trees about it, consists at present of nave, chancel and apse, S. aisle or chapel, and W. tower, with staircase turret attached. The great interest of the building arises from its early character, and from the material (Roman brick) which is largely used in it. It has been suggested that it is in part an actual Roman Basilica; but such a building would only have been found at a considerable station; and there is no reason for believing that any such station existed on the site of Brixworth. The only existing traces of what may be Roman work are some indistinct lines of castramentation in a field adjoining the churchyard. Still there can be no doubt that a large Roman building of some sort did exist here, and that its remains were used by the builders of the existing church. The mortar which now appears is not Roman; but fragments of unmistakable Roman mortar were found adhering to some of the bricks—now unfortunately "pointed" by too zealous masons. There can be little doubt but that Brixworth is an early, and therefore very important example of Romanesque—that is, of the direct imitation of Roman work by English builders (see *Earl's Barton*, Rte. 2). If we may judge from the character of the work alone, we shall give to Brixworth a very much earlier date than can be assigned to Earl's Barton or Barnack. Little local or national style has here been developed, and we have the Roman brick used as it might have been used by Roman builders. The original plan (which has been traced with certainty) consisted of a nave of 4 bays, with narrow N. and S. aisles. A W. tower opened to the nave, and to a squared chamber on either side, N. and S.; which chambers again opened to the nave aisles. There were also square chambers or chapels opening from the eastern ends of the aisles, and also communicating with the chancel. A lofty arch crossed the eastern end of the nave, and a second arch opened to an apse at the eastern end of the chancel, which was thus distinctly marked. The apse, polygonal on the exterior, was surrounded by a semicircular passage or ambulatory, which formed the outside wall of the church toward the east. At a period much later than the rest of the church, but still no doubt before the Conquest, a circular staircase turret was added on the W. front of the tower, some change was made in the tower arch opening to the nave, and all access to the tower from the outside was closed. This was probably done for the sake of security, perhaps after some Danish foray. The tower was thus converted into a stronghold. At some unknown period, but before the building of the present south chapel, the original aisles were removed, and the arcade on either side closed, so as to form the outer wall. Other changes followed. Dec. and Perp. windows were inserted; and in the reign of Henry VI. the chancel was lengthened and remodelled, with the apparent destruction of the apse. This was the condition of the church when its restoration was undertaken by Mr. Watkins,—except that the wash and plaster had been removed from two of the arches, so as to

show the Roman brickwork, by Miss Baker, sister of the historian of Northants. The ch. has now been cleared of all obscuring plaster. The arches and their piers have been thoroughly disclosed, and although the aisles have not been restored, the walls have been set back, so as to show the piers, and the intruded windows have been replaced by smaller, round-headed ones. The apse has been restored on the old foundations, since a portion of the polygonal wall was discovered in its place. The enclosing wall of the ambulatory is traced, but the ambulatory itself has not been rebuilt. It may be added that the dimensions of the nave are 60 ft. by 30; and that the chancel, from its western arch to the arch of the apse, is 30 ft. in length. The ded. is to All Saints.

The semicircular arches of the nave are built with Roman bricks, mostly in two courses, one above another, as if for strength, and rest on square imposts of the same material, set upon square piers of brick and stone intermingled. Above, on either side, are three clerestory windows, also round headed, and set between, not over, each main arch. "They are constructed with a mixture of stone and fragments of bricks, as though all the whole bricks taken from a previous building had been exhausted in the construction of the lower arches, and none but these fragments remained to intermix with stone in the clerestory formation."—*C. F. Watkins.* It had been conjectured that this clerestory was an addition, perhaps of the same date as the stair turret; but the clearing of the walls during the restoration showed that it was built at the same time as the main arcade. The clerestory, however, narrows from a set-off on either side: the lower walls being 4ft. thick. The masonry (except the brick) is rubble, "strengthened at the corners with large rude blocks of granite, sandstone, and clay slate . . . and cemented by a mortar as hardened as the stones themselves."—C. A. W. These blocks may have been boulders, found on the surface of the soil. In the tower, the stair turret, and elsewhere, herringbone masonry occurs in patches, quite irregularly. It is worth notice, also, that in the E. Eng. and Dec. additions Roman bricks are used—perhaps taken from the destroyed aisles.

At the east end of the chancel the lofty arch opening to the apse remains as it was at first built, except that the piers have been strengthened. There is a clerestory window on either side; and both arch and windows resemble those of the nave in construction. There was a second arch, resting on a transverse wall, at the east end of the nave. The bases of the piers have been found, but this arch is gone. In the *tower*, the W. arch formed the original grand entrance to the church. A lesser arch opposite opened to the nave; and when the staircase turret was added, this arch was shorn of its crown, to receive a three-light window with baluster shafts, as a substitute for the W. window of the tower, which was closed by the staircase. The square tower is bonded in with the nave at intervals. The round stair turret is a clear addition, and of very rough masonry. At the east end, the ambulatory round the apse was on a considerably lower level than the floor of the apse itself; but a thorough examination has disclosed no trace of a crypt. Indeed, the chancel and the apse were on the same level. Externally the apse had shallow, pilaster-like buttresses. In one of the western piers of the nave there was found, during the restoration, a rudely-sculptured eagle (now preserved in the church) which may perhaps be Roman. There are mortices in it, for the fixing, apparently, of a standard. The present entrance to the church is by a Norman portal built into the lower part of the western-

most arch on the south side. The small S. chapel or aisle, which is attached to the S. side of the chancel, was added in the E. Eng. period as the chantry of the Verduns, then lords of the manor. Here is the cross-legged effigy of Sir John de Verdun, and a late altar-tomb for a Lord Inverary. The oaken screen here is of the 16th century. The upper part of the tower, with its spire, are additions of the Dec. period.

Some coins of Antoninus Pius and Carausius have been found at Brixworth, and it is said that Roman urns have occurred. A so-called Saxon arch found in rebuilding the Vicarage, but no longer existing, has been claimed as part of the cell belonging to Peterborough. The building of so important a church here is no doubt due to that great monastery; and its size and importance, relatively to the consequence of the place, probably saved it, as Mr. Ayliffe Poole points out, from a mediæval rebuilding.

Brixworth boasts a distinction of very different character, in the *kennels* of the famous *Pytchley Hunt* (see Rte. 9), which have long been established in the village. They are worth seeing. The dogs (about 32 couple) are fine, and admirably cared for. There are also large stables for the horses of the servants of the hunt, and of the master (Earl Spencer). Foxes' snouts (the nose and a fragment of skin like a moustache) are nailed on boards in the yard, showing the numbers killed during each season. The Pytchley hunt the greater part of the county, and are met by Lord Fitzwilliam's hounds near Apethorpe and by the Warwickshire on the west.

[Between Brixworth station and that of Lamport lie (rt.) the churches of Scaldwell, Old or Wold, and Faxton. *Scaldwell* (restored 1863) has a Dec. S. arcade and an early Perp. on the N. side. The nave and chancel are of equal length. The font is good Dec. with a modern cover; the E. window Perp. The tower is certainly early, and shows marks of Saxon work. *Wold Church* has a fine Dec. tower (the most interesting portion), but is mainly Perp. There are fragments of a carved pulpit of the 16th cent. *Faxton*, a chapelry in the par. of Lamport, has a small, isolated *Ch.*, which was originally E. Eng. but was altered in the Dec. period. The chancel arch and east window are early Dec. There is a mural monument for a certain Judge Nichols, who lived here, and who was poisoned by 4 women when on circuit at Kendal,—to prevent his passing sentence of death on one of their relatives. He kneels in his robes at a desk; Justice and Fortitude support him. The balance and scales held by Justice (which have unfortunately dropped off) were supposed by the villagers to represent the weighing of the poison.]

We reach the next *station* at *Lamport*. On the hill above is *Lamport Hall* (Sir Charles Isham, Bart.). The house was designed by Webb, son-in-law of Inigo Jones. It contains some family pictures, and a good library. The grounds are extensive and pleasant, and the large park is well wooded. Lamport *Church*, in the village, is modern, but retains the arcade of its predecessor. There is some modern stained glass, a good new font, and many Isham memorials. The country here is much broken into hill and dale, and the views over Cottesbrooke Woods are very pleasing.

Proceeding from Lamport, we pass rt., about 1½ m. from the station, *Maidwell Hall* (occupied by W. Belgrave, Esq.), dating from 1637. The church of Maidwell, without interest, is one of two churches (representing two manors) which formerly stood here. One has disappeared altogether. The other has lost its ancient chancel.

The country here is wooded and pretty; and between Maidwell and *Haselbeech* (2 m. W.) is a picturesque valley with fine trees, much favoured by picnic parties. Haselbeech *Church* (restored 1860) has a good tower of the Welford type (see the present Rte. *ante*) restored in 1869. A mortuary chapel adjoining the chancel was built in 1872, and contains an altar-tomb with recumbent effigies for the wife and child of Cecil Foljambe, Esq.: whose mother, the dowr. Lady Milton, resides at *Haselbeech Hall*.

The next *station* is *Kelmarsh*, where the *Church* has (1876) been restored and partly rebuilt. The roof of nave and chancel are new, as are the carved oak seats, and the pulpit and reading-desk of walnut. There is a mosaic reredos; and the side arcades of the chancel are inlaid with alabaster and fragments of marble from Rome. The stained glass of the E. window is of the 14th cent., and the gift of the rector. Piers of polished red granite (modern) divide the nave from the N. aisle. Altogether the restoration (or rebuilding) is an elaborate one. The tower and spire are of the Welford type. Near the village is *Kelmarsh Hall* (R. C. Naylor, Esq.).

One *station* serves for *Clipston* and *Oxendon Magna*. *Clipston* has a *Church* of some interest, with Norm., E. Eng., Dec. and Perp. portions. The arcades are E. Eng., the chancel Perp. The W. tower is E. Eng., with a Perp. spire. A *Grammar School*, free to the children of the six neighbouring parishes, and a hospital for 12 aged persons, were founded at Clipston by Sir George Buswell in 1667. The Buswells were lords of the manor of Newbold in the parish of Clipston. *Oxendon Magna* stands on high ground about 1 m. N. of Clipston. The church (restored 1847) is Dec.; and in the chancel is a monument for the Rev. John Morton, author of the 'Nat. Hist. of Northamptonshire,' published in 1712. He was rector from 1706 to 1737.

[1½ m. rt. of the Clipston stat. is *Arthingworth* (church restored 1872; reredos of marble and alabaster; font and pulpit of Eden stone; some modern stained glass); 2 m. S.E. is *Harrington*, with an E. Eng. church, and some ancient screen work. The tower dates from 1809.]

There is little which calls for notice before the railway reaches the *station* at Market Harborough. At *East Farndon*, in a field adjoining the *Hall* (Mrs. Fagan), are some considerable earthworks which seem to be British, and which Mr. M. H. Bloxam holds to have been connected with other British posts at Sibbertoft and at Rockingham,—frontier fortresses, as he suggests, of the Dobuni S. of the river Welland.

For *Market Harborough* see *Hdbk. for Leicestershire*.

ROUTE 9.

NORTHAMPTON TO KETTERING.

By Road.

The distance from Northampton to Kettering is 12 m. Some interesting places are easily accessible on either side of the main road. 1 m. is passed, rt. *Abington Abbey* (so called at present—it was never a religious house), now serving as a

private asylum. It was long the property of the Bernards and Thursbys, and contains some Tudor portions, although the main house was built by the Thursby who bought the place in 1669. There is a lofty hall, partly of this date. The grounds are pleasant, and adjoining a mulberry-tree on the lawn is an inscription running, "This tree was planted by David Garrick, Esq., at the request of Ann Thursby as a growing testimony of their friendship, 1778." Whether this tree is a slip from Shakespeare's mulberry does not appear; but it may be supposed that the planting was suggested by the fact that Shakespeare's granddaughter, Elizabeth, daughter of John Hall and Susanna Shakespeare, lived and died here (Feb. 1669–70), as the wife of Sir John Bernard—who, in the year of her death sold Abington to William Thursby. Her burial here is recorded (Feb. 17); but she has no memorial in the *church*, which stands within the grounds. This was rebuilt (except the tower. which is Norm. and Perp.) in 1821, and contains several Thursby monuments, of no great interest. There is a rich pulpit of the 17th cent.

The drive from Northampton is through a pleasant country, without marked character. At 4 m. a road branches l. to *Moulton* (½ m.) where the ch. has a good Dec. tower but is otherwise uninteresting. ½ m. rt. of the main road are *Overstone Church* and *Park* (Lord Overstone). At the entrance to the park stands the gatehouse with arch and spiked cresting removed from the old hall of Pytchley when that place was dismantled. (See the present Rte., *post.*) That hall was long the place at which certain members of the Pytchley Hunt assembled during part of the season. Old-fashioned manners prevailed there; and a venerable member of the Pytchley, on passing under the arch in its present position, remarked, "I hope that old gateway cannot tell tales." The park thus entered is large and pleasant, much broken and well wooded. A large sheet of water gives it character, and adds to the beauty of the views, especially as seen from the windows of the house. This is modern (1862, *Teulon*, archit.), of Italian design, with a lofty central tower. The fine rooms contain nothing which calls for especial notice, since the great art-collections belonging to Lord Overstone are not here. *Roberts's* 'Edinburgh,' dated 1847, hangs in one of the corridors, but is terribly cracked. There is a large library, where are the valuable collections of Maculloch of the 'Commercial Dictionary,' and other volumes of importance. Here are also many MS. letters and remains of Gray the poet; a vol. of letters of the civil war period, including many of Prince Rupert's; and numerous drawings, plans, and prints, which formed part of Baker's collections for Northamptonshire. Trees and shrubs in the grounds and gardens are forming fine specimens. Overstone was bought in 1844 by Lewis Loyd, Esq.; from whom it passed in 1858 to his only son, S. J. Loyd, who in 1850 was created Lord Overstone, taking his title from this place.

The old church stood in front of the former manor-house, which occupied the site of the present. The existing *Church* stands near one of the entrances to the park, and was built by John Kipling, Esq., in 1807. It contains a large "parlour" or pew; some memorial tablets, including one for John Kipling, which tells us that "this church, which was built at his sole expense, will best perpetuate his memory;" and church "books" given by a Cust (former owners of the place) who was Speaker, and on going out of office had the privilege of removing those used in the House of Commons. There is also in the church, under glass, an

early German picture of the baptism of our Lord. The East window is filled with good German glass.

[*Mears Ashby*, 2 m. E. of Overstone, has a church with E. E. portions, and a modern chancel, rebuilt 1859. There is some good modern stained glass. The church of *Sywell*, 1½ m. N.E., was thoroughly restored and partly rebuilt by Lord Overstone, in 1870.]

[On the left of the main road, at about 5½ m. from Northampton, a road branches to Holcot. This church, and two others of more importance, lie tolerably near together, and may be visited in the same expedition. The village of *Holcot* (1½ m. from the main road) is pretty and picturesque, occupying broken ground, with fine trees scattered about it. The *Church*, much "restored" in 1845, has a late Dec. nave (piers and arches), with Perp. clerestory and roof. Portions of the S. aisle are E. Eng. The tower is good early Perp. The view from the N. side of the ch.-yd. is worth notice. The *Church* of *Hannington* (1½ m. N.E.) is very unusual and striking. (It was restored in 1868.) It is throughout of one period, Early English, well developed, but belonging to the very beginning of the style. The most peculiar feature of the church is the single arcade, which divides the nave through the centre and rests against the wall above the chancel arch, thus forming in effect a double nave. (The object of this arrangement is quite uncertain. It is found at Caythorpe in Lincolnshire, and as Sir H. Dryden points out, in three churches in Gotland (Sweden) and in that of S. Nicholas, Soest.) This arcade supports nothing, but presses so much on the chancel wall that a great beam has become necessary to supply counter-pressure. The tower at the W. end is built into the nave, where it projects like a huge chimney. The windows are large, with plain intersecting tracery, and the lofty piers are fine. There is a deep arch on the W. front, somewhat recalling Peterborough. A string-course runs quite round the church, outside and in. Observe also some very good remains of screen work, a fine pulpit of the Dec. period, and portions of the old chancel-screen. There was a Gilbertine cell here, attached to the parent house of Sempringham; but whether the existing church belonged to it is uncertain. *Walgrave*, 1½ m. N.W. of Hannington, is the finest church of the three. It is entirely Decorated, dating from 1300 to 1320. The restoration (*Hayward* of Exeter, archit.) is unusually good, and is strictly conservative. The nave is of three bays, with N. and S. aisles terminating with it. The S. aisle was, however, altered by the Langhams in the 17th cent., when a kind of transept, with a vault beneath it, was thrown out. The main arcade is most graceful, with quatrefoiled capitals well undercut, and bases of similar character. There are grotesque heads at the angles of the hood-mouldings. The chancel is wider than the nave, thus producing an unusual impression of space. The East window has fine reticulated tracery, and is set in a hollowed moulding. On the S. side is one large window nearest the altar, and two others smaller, the second of which is carried downwards so as to form a low side-window—a very striking example. There is a transom, below which is rich tracery, and then a division into four lights. On the W. side is a hollow recess with trefoiled heading, which has apparently served as a seat.—On the N. side of the chancel are only two windows.—The roofs of nave and chancel are new and very good. On the whole this church, so uniform and so dignified, well deserves atten-

tion. On some parts of the buttresses and battlements are the letters "I.L. 16:33."

Walgrave was for some time the rectory of John Williams, who afterwards became Bishop of Lincoln, and (1641) Archbishop of York. His chaplain, John Hacket, who became Bishop of Lichfield after the Restoration, has recorded, in his curious and amusing 'Life of Abp. Williams,' many particulars of his mode of living at Walgrave—which preferment he obtained from Lord Chancellor Egerton, in whose household he had been—"a fit nest for an eagle," says Hacket. He built, and gardened, and planted at Walgrave, we are told, "and made it a dwelling fit for all the changeable seasons of the year. . . Here he could solace himself in private retirements . . . and through temperance he had strength to be industrious, and gave a good example to the divines his neighbours, who had need to have such pricked in here and there among them." He was very charitable and hospitable, and "lived like a magnifico at home. His brethren the clergy visited him much; and he had mightily won the friendship of the gentry in the whole district about him, and had such favour and countenance from the nobility likewise, that they vouchsafed their presence at his feasts; but chiefly for his music sake, which was the banquet they came for; and he was furnished very well both for voices and instruments in his own family. It was sumptuous, I confess, for one of his level in those days." After he was made Dean of Salisbury he had trouble with his chapter, and so "reposed himself in the tranquillity of Northamptonshire till a better advancement released him from those wranglers. The place (Walgrave) was healthful; for no air is so wholesome to a man as where he is greatly beloved."—Williams was the great rival of Laud, and his life belongs to the history of that time. He died 1650, having been deprived with the rest of the bishops; and "after the murder of the king lived very retired, seemed to take no satisfaction in his life, and used to rise every night at midnight to his devotions." He was the last churchman who acted as Lord Chancellor.

Walgrave Hall, now a farm-house, belonged formerly to the Langhams, and has the remains of a good Elizabethan house, with carved staircase and mullioned windows. There are fine trees about it, and a series of large fish-ponds. At *Wold*, 1 m. N.W., is a church with E. E. and Perp. portions, and a fine Dec. tower. There are fragments of a curious pulpit, perhaps Elizabethan.]

Returning to the main road, we have, at 10 m. *Broughton* close on the rt. and *Cransley* on the l. The church of Broughton has Norm. portions, but is chiefly early Dec. and Perp. The whole church was restored in 1854; but the modern pulpit of Caen stone was added in 1867. There is a monument with bust for Robert Bolton the Puritan. Cransley Church, mainly E. Eng., was restored in 1870.—1½ m. E. of Broughton is *Pytchley*, famous as the place which has given name to one of the most celebrated "hunts" in the kingdom. This hunt was established early in the last century; and the manor-house, which had been built by Sir Euseby Isham in the reign of Elizabeth, served during many years as a "club house" for the members. It was of native yellow stone, with many gables, and was pulled down in 1828. (There is an engraving, well showing the character of the house, in Baker's 'Northamptonshire.') "The kennels were close at hand, and the hounds were brought there for a fortnight at a time, when that part of the country was hunted. Then the members came and took up their

lodgings at the club, the horses being in scratch stables in the village. The cuisine was notoriously good, and, in the fashion of the day, drinking and play were deep. A billiard-table and boxing-gloves in the hall helped to dispel the listlessness of non-hunting days. It was a custom after dinner for any member, on depositing half-a-crown in a wine-glass, to name and put up to the highest bidding the horse of any other member, who of course could buy him in at his own price. In this way, on a night of more than usual festivity, "Lancet" was sold by Mr. Nethercoat to Mr. Cook of Hothorpe, for £620—a price at that day unexampled for a hunter, and long quoted as one of the marvels of Pytchley. . . The Chase books at Althorp, which commence in 1773, give a detailed account of every day's sport, while the Pytchley were under the mastership of the late Lord Althorp."—*James's* 'Northants.' The hunt continued after the extinction of the club, and remains in great distinction, the kennels being at present at Brixworth. (See Rte. 8.) It is worth noting that the Domesday Survey records as the owner of this place one William, "who held his lands at Pightesley by sergeantry of hunting wolves, foxes, and other vermin." His predecessor in the days of the Confessor had been "Alwyne the hunter." The "sporting antiquity" of Pytchley is therefore very considerable; and Canon James points out that, underlying the foundations of the present church and the ch.-yd. a primitive cemetery, discovered in 1845, disclosed in one of its rough stone kistvaens the skeleton of a man with a spear-head and boar's tusk by his side—the trophy, no doubt, of some yet earlier *chasse* in the forest which once covered all this part of the country. Pytchley was at one time famous for its annual races and steeplechases, which have long been discontinued. The race-course here was an especially good one.

Pytchley *Church*, of no great interest, was restored in 1845, and 1861. It contains portions of various dates, and its "ring of bells" is famous. There is a modern brass for C. H. Domenichetti, d. 1862.

2 m. beyond Broughton we reach (15 m. from Northampton) *Kettering*, where the railway *station* serves for the Midland main line, from London to Leicester and the North (see Rte. 12); and for the branch line which runs to Kettering from Cambridge, by Huntingdon and Thrapston (see Rte. 14). Kettering (Cateringe in Domesday; pop. *of parish* in 1871, 7184; *Inn*, the Royal, in the market-place) is a market-town standing on high ground, and marked by the tower and spire of the church seen over all the neighbouring country. The chief business of the place is shoe-making; and there are some large tanyards. For the tourist, however, the sole point of interest in Kettering is the church. The place belonged to the great monastery of Peterborough from the end of the 10th century until the 16th. The manor has since been in several hands.

The *Church* is late Perp. with the exception of the eastern end of the chancel, which is early Dec., circa. 1260. It consists of nave and aisles, chancel with N. and S. chantry, W. tower and N. porch. The Perp. work of the main building is of ordinary character. The nave is of six bays. The aisles are nearly of equal width. But although fine and dignified in expression, the interior is of no very great interest, and the only points to be noted are—the East window of the chancel (early Dec.), with modern stained glass, the remains of a wall-painting in the N. aisle, representing St. James the Greater in the habit of a pilgrim; and the roof of the S. chantry, a

good example of late Perp. But the *tower and spire* are very fine, and are quite worthy of the architectural reputation of the county. The date is probably about 1450. The tower is of four stories, richly decorated with string-courses and panels; the former quatrefoiled, but with a different pattern for each. These foiled string-courses are carried round the buttresses, which are of six stages, set on in pairs about 2 ft. from each angle of the tower. Above the very rich W. doorway is the great W. window, occupying the whole height of the 2nd storey. Above, again, are the belfry lights, triplets, each of two lights, transomed. The battlemented parapet has hexagon turrets at each corner, and set on with a projecting eave resting on a corbel table of heads. (Compare the tower of *Oundle*, Rte. 2.) The spire, rising within the battlements, is richly crocketed. The north porch, with a parvise chamber, is curiously slanted; perhaps, as has been suggested, to face the chief path leading to the church from the town. (Kettering Church has been thoroughly illustrated in twenty plates by *R. W. Billings.*)

A new church (*St. Andrew's*) built by *Street* in 1870, deserves notice. The *Cemetery*, on the London road, is well laid-out and planted.

The architectural antiquary should visit Barton Seagrave, about 2 m. from Kettering; and Broughton and Geddington, described in the following Route, are also within an easy drive of the town.

Barton Seagrave lies nearly 2 m. on the road to Thrapston. The walk is not very interesting until you descend to the valley of the little river Ise, a feeder of the Nen. Here is much wood; and on the rt. bank of the stream on rising ground stand Barton Hall and Church. The place is named from the Seagraves, its ancient lords, who held it from an early period. The *Church*, ded. to St. Botolph, belonged, temp. Edw. II., to the Priory of Kenilworth. It is very interesting, and contains some remarkable Norman work. The Norman church consisted of nave and chancel, with a tower at the intersection. A south aisle with chantry at the E. end was added in the Dec. period, when the whole fabric underwent alteration. The main walls of the church (except the S. aisle) and the lower part of the tower are Norm., and apparently early Norm. Norm. windows, with exterior side shafts, remain on the N. side of the chancel and in the tower. The N. door of the nave is Norm., having side shafts with carved caps., and some very rude carving in the tympanum below the arch, representing a bearded head between two monsters, one of which has a human head in its mouth. Within, the tower arches belong to the original building. Their W. faces have a deep hollow, a convex moulding, and a double row of billet mouldings, supported by a single shaft on each side, and a rude and far projecting abacus. The east faces of these arches are plain. The clerestory of the nave, with its deeply set, trefoil windows, was added in the Dec. period, to which time also belong the corbels of the nave roof, and the upper stage of the tower, with the belfry lights.

Fine avenues of branching elms stretch away from the church E. and N.E.; and may be due to the example, if not to the direction, of that Duke of Montagu known as "Planter John," who did so much at Boughton (see Rte. 10), and who was for some time "Lord Paramount" here. On the opposite side of the road is *Barton Hall* (Lady Hood), an old house much modernized. It was the home and property of John Bridges, author of the 'History of Northamptonshire;' who was born

here. The materials for this history were collected by him with very great labour; but he died before they could be brought into shape, and the book (2 vols. folio) was arranged and published in 1791, by the Rev. Peter Whalley.

The visitor should walk to the top of the hill, to which the avenues ascend. The view thence across the valley of the Ise is pleasing, and is well characteristic of this part of the country, which is almost too closely wooded. Over all the scene, church towers, halls and villages, look out from thick screens of elm and oak.

ROUTE 10.

KETTERING TO STAMFORD.

By Road.

The distance from Kettering to Stamford is 21½ m. No railway passes through this northern part of Northamptonshire; which is in many ways attractive. Much of the country is well wooded, and was included in the ancient forest of Rockingham. There are some very striking prospects, since the ground is much broken, without anywhere rising to much height. Some important houses and churches are on the main road, or adjoin it.

About 2 m. from Kettering, a little off the main road, to the rt. is *Warkton* Church, rich (if that is the right word for such things) in the costly monuments of the Dukes and Duchesses of Montagu, whose house of Boughton is at no great distance. The wood which covers so much of this district is due in great measure to Duke "John the Planter," who died in 1749. Warkton Church is surrounded by fine trees, above which rises the tower, Perp., of four stories. On one of the bells is an unusual inscription, "Gratum opus agricolis, intactum sileo percute dulce sono." The rest of the church was reduced to sad condition in the last century, when the chancel was rebuilt in "classic" style, and the nave was deprived of all its original character. The chancel was then converted into a kind of mausoleum. The nave was restored in 1872, when a new S. aisle was built. The chancel has undergone some improvement; but the great Montagu monuments are still predominant. These are—John, Duke of Montagu, "the Planter," who died in 1749. His Duchess appears lamenting in an absurd attitude;—and another for the Duchess herself, who died in 1751. Below appear the Fates, spinning and cutting her thread of life. These are both by *Roubiliac.* The others are for Mary, Duchess of Montagu, d. 1775, "a circular Ionic sepulchre," designed by Peter Matthias *Vangelder*; and (far the best of all) for Elizabeth Montagu, Duchess Dowager of Buccleuch, only daughter of the last Duke of Montagu, d. 1827. This is a dignified figure, seated, by *Thos. Campbell.* The great size of these erections, the cost of which was enormous whilst the art is very indifferent, gives them a more than usually intrusive and disturbing character. Warkton belonged to the Abbey of St. Edmundsbury until the Dissolution, when it was granted to Sir Edward Montagu.

[1½ m. E. of Warkton is the church of *Grafton Underwood*, worth notice. The towe is E. Eng., with

some Dec. additions, and the spire is Dec. The aisle windows are Perp. Those of the chancel (except one, which is E. Eng.) rich Dec. There is an unusually long Perp. porch. *Within*, the nave arcade, of three bays, is E. Eng., but with some Norman survival. There are some fragments of Perp. wood-work; and a modern monument (an enamelled brass on a slab of black marble) for Lady Gertrude Fitzpatrick, daughter of John, Earl of Upper Ossory. A large wood in this parish (whence the name "Underwood,") was enclosed and converted into a park by Simon de Drayton, 22nd Edw. III.]

The *Church* of *Weekley*, restored, 1872, with a Dec. tower and good early Dec. arcade, is passed shortly before entering the park of Boughton, which is a distinct manor, although in Weekley par. In this church is the monument of Lord Chief Justice Montagu, very different in its simplicity from the vast structures at Warkton. Near the church is *Montagu's Hospital*, founded by Sir Edward Montagu in 1614, and bearing on its front the motto, "What thou doest doe yt yn Faith."

Boughton, which was bought in 1528 by Sir Edward Montagu, Lord Chief Justice, is especially remarkable for the great network of avenues which surround the house, and which extend altogether to a length of about 60 miles. These were entirely the work of Duke John "the Planter," who died in 1749. The equal horizon-lines of the avenues are curious in effect, and at once show that all the trees were planted at the same time. The greater number are elms; but the variety is inferior to that used at Lilford, where the elm avenues are certainly more striking. The Boughton trees, however, are very beautiful; and the broad grassy spaces in the park, dotted with deer (there are about 800), that open between the avenues, from the N. and W. fronts are delightful. The house was built by Ralph, 1st Duke of Montagu, who in 1695 received King William and his Court here with great magnificence. It was largely altered and added to by the 2nd Duke, John "the Planter;" and in the days of its splendour Boughton was famous for its vast gardens and ornamented grounds, a wilderness of statues, vases, and terraces. Thus it is mentioned by *Delille*, '*Jardins*,' Chant. ii., where some English places are condescendingly noticed:

'Et Bowton et Foxley, que le bon goût planta.'

—All this splendour, however, has disappeared (although the little river Ise, which runs through the park, still retains for a short part of its course the "straight-waistcoting" to which it was subjected by that kind of *bon goût* which came from Holland with the 3rd William), and the house wears at present a half-deserted look. It is vast, with much French character—tall casements with small glazing, and "mansardes" breaking from the roofs which, moderately steep, are covered with Colley Weston slate. The house itself is of the local grey stone. The wings were the work of John the Planter. An arcaded front opens to the hall, in which are many full-length portraits (chiefly copies or compositions) including one of Lord Chief Justice Montagu. In an inner hall is a curious portrait of Edw. VI. on a white horse. In the background a full moon is rising. Other *pictures* to be noted are—in the *Dining-room*, Duke John the Planter, by *Kneller*, a delicately-featured face, as of a man who may have cared more for his trees than for the turmoil of state. Eldest daughter of Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, *Vandyck*; and two of the Brudenell family, also by *Vandyck*.

In the *State Bedroom* is the portrait of a man holding a mathematical instrument, ascribed to *Dobson*. The principal art-treasures of the house, however, are in an upper apartment. These are two cartoons, assigned to *Raffaelle*, and given by Charles II. to the Duke of Beaumont, with a series of tapestries from the Cartoons now at Kensington. The subjects are the "Vision of Ezechiel," and a "Holy Family"—the first after Raffaelle's small picture in the Pitti Palace at Florence, the second after a Holy Family painted for Francis I. But in both cases there are great alterations and omissions, and both Passavant and Waagen are decidedly of opinion that Raffaelle himself had nothing to do with these cartoons. "I am convinced," writes Waagen, "that both these cartoons were executed by Netherlandish artists, as patterns for the tapestry manufactories at Arras, Tournay, and other towns, where the tapestries in the Vatican from the Hampton Court Cartoons were worked." In spite of this judgment, however, which is probably a true one, the cartoons at Boughton will be found interesting, and well deserving of attention. There are in the house two sets of tapestries from the Hampton Court Cartoons; besides many of later date, and of different subjects.—In the same room with the cartoons are full-length portraits of John the Planter and of his Duchess, daughter of the Duke of Marlborough; Lady Anne Rivers, in the habit of an Abbess; and Lord Rivers in peer's "robes." An adjoining bedroom contains a portrait of the last of the Treshams (see Rushton, Rte. 12), in very rich armour, holding a cross-bow. In the house are some other pictures of note:—a fine copy of *Matsys'* "Misers;" landscapes by *Artois* and *Wilson*; a curious family picture by *John Verkolie*; and children of the Earl of Leicester by *Sir Peter Lely*. There are many Montagu portraits, but none of much interest beyond those already noticed; besides numerous flower-pieces by *Jean Baptiste* (Monnoyer), d. 1699, who was patronized by the first Duke of Montagu, for some time Ambassador in Paris, whence he brought the artist, who lived occasionally at Boughton, and painted there. The ceilings throughout are by *Verrio*; and the room is shown in which King William III. slept, where the bed is hung with pink and gold brocade. On a chimney-piece in the Audit Gallery are the inscriptions "Mille douleurs pour ung plasure"; "Ne sis Argus foris et domi talpa." House and pictures suffer throughout from damp, and to wander through the bright, far-stretching park is more cheering than to explore these half-deserted apartments.

Returning to the high road we reach, at 3 m. from Kettering, the village of *Geddington*, where is one of the Eleanor crosses, still perfect, and still happily unrestored. Geddington (the name is perhaps to be referred to the Geddingas, whose settlements occur in Suffolk and Middlesex) is a place of considerable antiquity, and the church retains marks of its Saxon origin. The nave arcade, on the N. side, is late Norm. with peculiar caps. and round arches; on the S. the arcade is E. Eng. with pointed arches. But above the arcade on the N. side are traces in the wall of a very peculiar triangular-headed arcade which may perhaps be Saxon. In that case the Saxon church must have been aisleless, and its walls were cut through to form the present arcades, dividing the nave from its aisles. The earlier aisles were rebuilt in Perp. days, when the walls were raised, and the present clerestory of the nave inserted. The whole of this Saxon work, which was carefully preserved during the restoration of the church,

deserves notice. The chancel arch is late Dec.; but on the S. side are two E. Eng. arches opening to a chantry. Bracket heads project from the wall on each side of the E. window; and an inscription runs round the base moulding in the eastern bay, "Willelmus Glover de Gaytynton capellanus fecit scabella"—with the date 1369. These scabella may possibly be the existing sedilia. In the N. aisle is a small *brass* for Henry Jarmon, c. 1480, with anelace or knife, and his wife. The modern stained glass is by *Clayton and Bell.* The tower and spire are Dec. and fine. Remark the projecting gurgoyles, carved in hard stone, and as sharp as when just finished.

There was a royal "villa" at Geddington, the site of which was probably the "hall close" N. of the church. The manor was certainly in the King's hands in 1162, but for how long before that date is uncertain. In 1177 a council was held at Geddington by Henry II. to treat "of the peace and stability of the realm"; and in 1188, after the shock of the capture of Jerusalem, the same King held a great council here, in which he obtained a promise of a tithe to be contributed towards the Crusade. This was the last great council held by Henry II. in England. He went abroad in the same year and never returned. In 1194 Richard I. and William of Scotland were here on Good Friday, and went the next day to Northampton. The royal manor-house must have been of some size and importance, and its situation within the limits of the great forest of Rockingham gave it special attraction. It was chosen as one of the places at which the body of Queen Eleanor rested (no doubt in the church) on its way from Harby; and the *cross* still commemorates this. No account has been found of the cost of erecting this cross, such as exists for that at Northampton (Rte. 1); but the character of the statues is the same, and the architect may have been the same John de la Battaile. The cross stands in the village, at the junction of three roads. It is octagonal below, and raised on seven steps; but the upper part is triangular, and the outline differs altogether from that of the Northampton cross or from that of the cross at Waltham. It has been compared with these to its disparagement; but it may very well be doubted whether the general effect is not better. The design of the base is very good, and the sculpture excellent. Under the canopies above, carried on slender shafts, are three figures of the Queen. The whole is unrestored; sparrows have built their nests on the Queen's shoulders, sprays of slender grasses rise at the base of the figures, and the stone is tinged with yellow lichen. We have here a true relic of the 13th century, with its age duly stamped on it; and for the artist, the touches with which time and weather have softened the outlines—fine as these still are—will not lessen the effect or the interest.

[1 m. W. of Geddington is *Newton-in-the-Willows*, where the little church was originally a private chapel attached to a manor-house of the Treshams, a branch of which family (see Rushton, Rte. 12) was settled here for many generations. A dovecot, in the field adjoining the church, is the sole memorial of their hall at Newton. The church was restored, newly roofed, and a chancel added, in 1858. The stained glass is by *Clayton and Bell.* There is an altar-tomb for Richard Tresham, d. 1433, and his wife Isabel; and a brass for John Mulsho, 1400, and wife (a Tresham). He is kneeling at a cross, in the head of which is a figure of St. Faith, to whom the ch. is ded.]

About 5 m. from Kettering, a

little off the main road, W. is *Little Oakley*, with an E. Eng. church, restored and partly rebuilt, 1867, containing some monuments for the Montagu family. At 6 m., off the road, E. is *Stanion*, where is a good spire; but there is little to note until we reach the picturesque village of *Great Weldon* or, as it was called from its situation in Rockingham forest, *Weldon-in-the-Woods*. We are here in a pleasant, broken, country, which extends to Rockingham and to the river Welland, the N.W. boundary of Northamptonshire. The church of Great Weldon is mainly E. Eng. It underwent restoration in 1852, and again in 1862, when some additions were made. The geologist should visit the *freestone quarries* in this parish, which have been worked from an early period. "If we may credit the tradition of the place,' says Bridges, "founded on the report of skilful workmen, who know the grain of this stone, Old St. Paul's Cathedral, before the fire of London, was built with Weldon stone." It belongs to the uppermost beds of the Inferior Oolite, and is best known as "Ketton stone" from the quarries in Rutland, just beyond the Northamptonshire border. This is one of the most important building stones in the kingdom, and is composed entirely of small egg-shaped grains, imbedded in a calcareous matrix. It is very easily worked, of a good cream-colour, and very durable, hardening under atmospheric exposure. St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet Street, London, many of the Colleges at Cambridge, and many of the Northamptonshire churches are built of it. It is not very fossiliferous, but has yielded some fine corals.

At Weldon a road from Oundle to Market Harborough crosses that on which we are travelling. On this road, 1½ m. W. of Great Weldon, is *Corby*, giving name to the Hundred. The church is partly E. Eng., but is of no very great interest.

We proceed 2½ m. to *Deene*, where the church well deserves a visit, and where *Deene Park* (Countess of Cardigan) and the deserted house of *Kirby* should also be seen. Here the whole country is much wooded, and the views, if not wide or far extending, are very pleasant. Deene has been in the hands of the Brudenell family since 1514, when it passed to them from the Littons, the first owner of the new race being Chief Justice (of the Common Pleas) Robert Brudenell. His descendant, Thomas, was made a baronet by James I.; and by Charles I. (1627) was created Baron Brudenell, of Stanton Wyville in Leicestershire. He was a zealous royalist, and was for some time imprisoned in the Tower. In 1661, after the Restoration, he was created Earl of Cardigan. His descendant, the 7th Earl, Lt.-Col. of the 11th Hussars, died in 1868, when the title became extinct.

Deene *Church*, surrounded by trees, stands very near the hall, and was restored by Lady Cardigan in 1869. It was in fact almost rebuilt; and little of the original structure remains beyond the main arcade and the tower and spire. The general character is early Dec. The piers are circular, the arches fine and lofty, and there is some good sculpture. The tower and spire are early Dec., and the arrangement of the latter is very peculiar and beautiful. The window openings at the base are double, under small gables, with shafts at the angles. On each gable is a cross, and under each window is a trefoil-headed opening, without tracery. Half-way up are small spire lights, also gabled. The tower windows are of the same date. The whole is one of the most beautiful combinations even in Northamptonshire. The costly restoration of the

interior deserves especial notice. In the course of the work the chancel was lengthened, and the chapels added. In the new Brudenell Chapel, at the E. end of the S. aisle, all the family monuments have been collected, and a memorial of the last Earl of Cardigan, by *Boehm*, occupies the chief position. On an altar-tomb with shields of arms at the sides, and at the angles bronze sea-horses and the Brudenell crest, are the recumbent figures, in white marble, of the late Earl and his wife, the surviving Countess. He is laid at length. She is partly turned towards him, as if asleep, with her left arm under her head. The attitude may have been to some extent suggested by that of Stone's effigy in the church of Stowe (Rte. 4), and the figures are fine. At the ends of the tomb are bas-reliefs in bronze representing the charge at Balaclava, and an address to the troops. Other monuments in this chapel are—the first Earl of Cardigan and two wives; and a bust by *Guelfi*, of a Duchess of Richmond, d. 1722, daughter of Lord Brudenell. (The Brudenell shield is arg., a chevron between three caps of maintenance.) Here is placed a remarkable reredos, dated 1635, which was formerly in the chancel. It has three circular panels; of which that in the centre displays a flaming heart, pierced with nails. The modern glass in the East window is by *Lavers* and *Barraud*. The altar is magnificently vested. In the church-yard are two large and ancient yew-trees.

Deene Park, which is picturesque and extensive, is well wooded, with avenues mainly of beech and elm, extending nearly to Rockingham. Oaks are scattered in clumps. The deer are numerous, and besides fallow there are about 100 head of red deer. The *house*, of more than one date, is built round a quadrangle, and the general character is late Tudor. The hall, perhaps temp. Hen. VII., has a fine open roof. The inner Court has a portal with Ionic work which may be Jacobæan; and there are enriched ceilings in some of the rooms of the same date. A room near the main entrance is panelled, and has an inscription over the chimney-piece, "Amicus fidelis protexio (sic) fortis." Another room has the shield of Hen. VII., and the words "Vivat Rex;" and in it, according to the (improbable) tradition of the house, it is said that King Henry slept after the battle of Bosworth. A large new ball-room, with much heraldic decoration, has been built by Lady Cardigan. The house is well arranged and comfortable, and contains many Brudenell portraits, including many of the last Earl of Cardigan. There is an early portrait by *Grant*, and one in the hall by *Buckner*. A pleasing picture by *Stone* represents Lord Cardigan explaining the charge at Balaclava to the Prince Consort and the young princes. A portrait of Lady Elizabeth Waldegrave by *Sir Joshua Reynolds* should also be noticed. The gardens and grounds are pleasant and extensive; and in the latter is a fine oak-tree, a tablet attached to which informs us that the tree was raised from an acorn found in a large piece of oak in Woolwich Dockyard, and planted here in 1757 by Lady Eliz. Montagu, afterwards Duchess of Buccleuch.

More interesting than Deene, however, in spite of the decay and ruin into which it has fallen, is the house of *Kirby*, yet standing in the midst of its woods and avenues near the western extremity of Deene Park. Kirby was built by Sir Christopher Hatton at the same time that he was building Holdenby (see Rte. 7); or rather John Thorpe (the architect of Burghley, Rte. 3) completed for the Lord Keeper Hatton a house which had been partly built by the family of Stafford, the earlier pos-

sessors of the manor. The inner court was afterwards wrought into its final condition in 1638, by Inigo Jones, for the Lord Hatton who was then Controller of the Household. Kirby is at present the property of the Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, who represents the Hattons. The house was built round two Courts, each of considerable architectural importance; and the exterior elevations, with projecting oriels, much Elizabethan or "arabesque" ornament, and tall chimneys, were fine. The crest of the Staffords, a boar's head rising from a ducal coronet, appears on several parts of the house, and on the stables is the date 1590. The hall, with an open roof, was in the inner court. Kirby was in habitable condition as recently as 1820, and from its remote and yet central position it was spoken of as a possible retreat for the Court of George III. in the event of a French invasion. The house, buried in deep woods, is now "the lair and the fuel of a common labourer." It is falling slowly to pieces, and yet the masonry remains in all its firmness, without a stone displaced, the sculpture as sharp as the first day it was carved. "A moderate and timely outlay, a few years ago, would have preserved a house that tens of thousands could not now restore." Kirby is in the parish of *Gretton*, the church of which rises N. on a ridge above the Welland. There are in the chancel some monuments for the Hattons.

Still following the main road, we reach at 11½ m. the village of *Bulwick*, with *Bulwick Hall* (Lt.-Col. Tryon) on the l. The *Church*, restored in 1870, has a good Perp. tower and spire. The fittings of the interior, open seats, pulpit and lectern of carved oak, and reredos of alabaster and marble, are all modern. [A branch road leads from Bulwick to Blatherwycke, and round the park to Kingscliffe (see Rte. 2). *Blatherwycke Hall* (Henry de Stafford, Esq.) stands high, in the midst of a pleasantly wooded country, and in a large deer park. A fish pond in the grounds covers an area of 58 acres. The church in the park is of no great interest.]

Laxton Hall (Lord Carbery) lies l. of the main road, at about 14 m. from Kettering. The house was built from a design by J. H. Repton, and contains some pictures. Laxton *Church*, standing on the high ridge which here borders the Welland, is E. Eng. and Perp., and was restored throughout in 1867. Adjoining the main road rt. and "marching" with Laxton, are the grounds of *Fineshade Abbey* (E. H. C. Monckton, Esq.), a modern house, built partly on the site of a priory of Augustinian Canons, founded here by Richard Engayne (who died in 1208), after the demolition of Castle Hymel, which stood near but on higher ground. This castle, of which nothing is known, was destroyed in the reign of John, according to Bridges, and may have been one of the strongholds seized and demolished by the King at the beginning of the struggle with the barons. The annual value of the Priory, at the Dissolution, was 62*l.* 16*s.*

The church of *Wakerley*, 1 m. l., has a Norm. chancel arch, but is chiefly E. Eng. and Dec. *Tixover* is seen on the Rutland side of the Welland; and at *Duddington*, a high road from Peterborough toward Uppingham crosses that on which we are travelling. Duddington *Church*, restored 1844, has Norm. and E. Eng. portions. There are some picturesque old houses in the village.

At 18 m., the road passes the village of *Colley Weston* (church restored, 1857). This place has long been famous for its *slate quarries*, which were worked from a very early period, and Colley Weston slates have long formed the principal roofing material of this part of Eng-

land. They are still largely used, and were employed by Sir G. G. Scott for the roofs of St. John's Chapel, Cambridge. The bed, which belongs to the Inferior Oolite, and lies at the base of the so-called Lincolnshire limestone, the uppermost formation of this oolite (to which the Ketton and Weldon stones, see *ante*, belong) is thin, of calcareo-arenaceous character, and "upon exposure to frost, readily splits up into slates, not in the planes of cleavage, as in the case of Welsh or Westmorland slates, but in the planes of its finely laminated stratification."—*S. Sharp.* The quarries afford employment for a large industrial population. Among the more remarkable fossils found in these slate-beds are, a beautiful and, before its discovery here, unknown winged univalve, *Pterocera Bentleyi*; a crustacean of the genus *Pseudophyllia* (a small lobster): and a unique star-fish, found by Mr. Sharp, *Astropecten Cotteswoldiæ*, var. *Stamfordensis.*

There is little to notice between Colley Weston and Stamford. The road passes Wothorpe and Burghley (Rte. 3), and at a distance of 21½ m. from Kettering enters *Stamford*, described in Rte. 3.

(A *railway* is (1878) in course of construction from Seaton, in Rutland, to Wansford, near Peterborough; passing by Wakerley, Fineshade, and Kingscliffe.)

ROUTE 11.

KETTERING TO ROCKINGHAM.

By Road.

The distance from Kettering to Rockingham is 9 m.

At about 2 m. a road turns off l. to (1 m.) *Glendon Hall* (Richard Booth, Esq.), a house containing some interesting pictures, the most important of which is the portrait of Queen Catherine Parr, by *Holbein.* This is a full length, on panel, 70 by 34 inches. The under dress is richly patterned. The outer is damasked, open in front, with wide furred sleeves; rich jewels, and a jewelled headdress are worn, and a pink is held between the hands. Catherine Parr was the youngest daughter of Sir Thomas Parr of Kendal, and Maud Green of Green's Norton, near Towcester (see Rte. 5), where the future queen was possibly born. This portrait (engraved in Baker) probably came to Glendon through its former possessors, the Lanes; one of whom, Sir Ralph Lane, married Maud, daughter of Lord Parr, the Queen's uncle, whose monument remains in Horton Church. (See Beds., Rte. 5.)—The other pictures here are—a "Lucretia," assigned to *Leonardo da Vinci*; Morning and Evening, *Albano*; Head of the Magdalene, *Carlo Dolce*; a Spanish boy, *Murillo*; two unknown portraits, *Janssen*; Lord Holland, the Countess of Pembroke, and an unknown head, *Vandyck*; "The Enraged Prisoner," and a head of an old man (both from Stowe), *Rembrandt*; and a landscape, also from Stowe, by *Gaspar Poussin.*—Glendon is a small distinct parish, but has long been without a church.

At 4½ m. from Kettering we reach *Great Oakley.* (For Rushton, which lies about 1 m. left of the road, see Rte. 12.) The *Church* of Great Oakley contains some monuments for the family of Brooke, whose ancient seat, *Oakley Hall* (Sir William de Capell Brooke, Bart.) is a little N. of the village. It dates from 1555, and is a square building, much covered with ivy. 1½ m. W. of Oakley is the site of *Pipewell Abbey*, a Cistercian house founded

toward the end of the reign of Stephen by William Butevileyn. A great council was held here by Richard I. in Sept. 1189, the first held by him after his accession. Nearly all the English and Irish bishops were present, besides abbots and priors, and a great number of laymen. The vacant bishoprics were filled; and money raised for the crusade. Pipewell stood in the midst of the Rockingham forest; so that the weariness of state business might be lightened by the royal chase. The Abbey was well endowed; and at the Dissolution its clear annual value was 283*l*. There are no remains whatever, and but scanty traces of ancient foundations.

Beyond Oakley the road climbs the ridge of higher land on the border of the county; and, skirting the park of *Rockingham*, soon reaches the village and church. (The *station* for Rockingham, on the railway between Market Harborough and Stamford, is on the opposite bank of the river Welland, about ½ m. from the village. See Rte. 13.) The *Castle* of Rockingham and the *Church* are here the great objects of interest.

The steep village street climbs the ridge of oolite which borders the alluvial valley of the Welland, with its broad meadows and lines of trees. On the crest of the ridge stands *Rockingham Castle* (G. L. Watson, Esq.); and immediately below it is the church. The village, with its well-kept houses, its gardens, and its trees, is pleasant and attractive. An old house near the western entrance, now much altered, was once the chief "hostel," such an one as is frequently found on the outskirts of so important a stronghold as this of Rockingham. (Compare the hostel at Fotheringhay, Rte. 2.) As the village and church were dependencies of the *Castle*, that may be first noticed.

Rockingham Castle was founded by the direct order of the Conqueror, in the midst of a great forest district, which had been a royal hunting-ground before the days of the Confessor. "Rex Willelmus jussit ibi Castellum fieri" is the entry in Domesday. There is a tradition that the Castle was thus erected for the protection of ironworks which were then numerous within the limits of the forest; but the natural importance of the site is sufficiently marked; and the Norman castle, as in many other places, rose within earthworks of a far more ancient, probably British, period. (Lines of these earthworks are still very evident above the church, and immediately outside the present castle wall. They extend westward.) The height commanded what may have been a ford of the Welland, or at least a place where the river was crossed; and as a watchtower it overlooked a great part of the valley. The first notice of Rockingham, after Domesday, is in March, 1094, when a great council was held "in the chapel within the castle," chiefly with reference to the recognition of the Pope, Urban II., and to the position with respect to him of Anselm, who had been consecrated Abp. of Canterbury, Dec. 4, 1093, but had not yet received his pall. (There were still two rival Popes; and Wibert or Clement was held to be the lawful Pontiff by the Imperialists. William Rufus had not yet recognized either.) The scene at Rockingham between Anselm and the Red King is vividly described by Eadmer, *Hist. Nov.* 26, who gives us "living pictures of the Red King's most trusty advisers, both clerical and lay." The council broke up without coming to any real decision on the questions at issue. A truce was patched up, and such submission as Anselm made was made with a reservation of his duty to Pope Urban. (See *Dean Church's* "Anselm" for the best notice of this famous scene, and of its bearings on

the great ecclesiastical questions of the time.) The castle was frequently visited by later kings, with whom it was in favour, like Northampton, for the sake of the surrounding forests. John was constantly here; Hen. III. Edw. I. and Edw. II. often. Edward III. paid many visits to Rockingham; and in 1375 he ratified here the truce concluded at Bruges between himself and Charles V. of France. Rockingham was a royal castle: and the names of its constables (appointed for life, during the King's pleasure, or for a term of three years) have been recorded (see *Hartshorne's* "Rockingham") from A.D. 1199 to 1475, when William, Lord Hastings, received that office for his life. It was occasionally used for the safe keeping of prisoners; and after the fight at Dunbar (24 Edw. I.) the Constable was ordered to receive and to keep in safe custody several of those who had been taken in Dunbar Castle. Numerous records exist of repairs and additions to Rockingham Castle. These will be found in the late Mr. *Hartshorne's* (privately printed) account of Rockingham. They do not, however, greatly illustrate existing remains. A "new tower" and "new chamber" are mentioned in 1214; and extensive repairs were carried on during the constableship of Richard de Holebroc (1280-1283). There were frequent grants of timber from the royal forest for carpenter's work at the Castle. It may be as well to quote here part of Leland's description in 1545. "The castelle," he says, "standith on the toppe of an hille right stately, and hath a mighty diche, and bullewarks agayne without the diche. The keep is exceeding fair and strong, and in the walles be certain strong towers. The lodgings that were within the area of the castelle be discovered (uncovered) and faul to mine (fall into ruin). One thing in the waulles of this castelle is much to be notid; that they be embattled on booth, so that if the area of the castelle were won by coming in at either of the two greate gates of the castelle, yet the keepers of the waulles might defend the castelle. I marked that there is a strong tower in the area of the castelle, and from it, over the dungeon dike, is a drawbridge to the dungeon toure."

Very much of the castle has perished since Leland wrote this description. One of the "greate gates," however, remains; the mound of the keep or "dungeon toure" may still be climbed: and the buildings in the first court, which were then "falling to ruin," were soon afterwards repaired and enlarged, and now form the habitable mansion. The massive *entrance gateway* is perhaps the most interesting portion of the building. It dates from 1275, and consists of an arch flanked by two circular bastion towers, with curtain walls extending on either side. The towers are pierced with what are known as "arblast holes," though it is difficult to see how they can have been used by bowmen. Fragments of Norman carving are worked into the walls. This gateway admits us to the outer bailey or court of the castle—now containing the inhabited buildings. These occupy two sides; a third is formed by the gateway; and along the fourth is a raised terrace overlooking the valley. The buildings are partly of the 13th century (like the gateway) and partly of the 16th; much addition and rebuilding having taken place in 1585. The entrance doorway has an equilateral arch, with deep mouldings and shafts, and belongs to the former period. Immediately opposite, a door of similar character communicated with the inner court. A deep chimney is buttressed out from the hall; and two 13th-cent. windows have been found adjoining. All this clearly indicates that the exist-

ing hall, now Elizabethan in character, occupies the site of an earlier one, and retains much of the original walls. The rest of the house is for the most part Elizabethan. The inner court, to which we may pass through the hall, is now intersected by a yew hedge of venerable antiquity; and at its further end is the keep mound, possibly part of the old British works. The whole enclosure, containing about 3½ acres, is bounded by a wall once nearly 9 ft. thick; portions of which remain in their original condition. (The chapel of St. Leonard, "intra castellum," in which the great council was held, stood probably between the main buildings and the keep, above the present cellars.)

The manor of Rockingham, of which the history is closely woven with that of the castle, passed through various hands, until, in the middle of the 16th cent. it came to Sir Edward Watson—who also received the castle from the crown. His son, Sir Lewis Watson, garrisoned the place for Charles I.; and was afterwards (1645) created Baron Rockingham of Rockingham. In 1714 the then Baron, another Lewis Watson, was made Earl of Rockingham. This earldom became extinct in 1746; but the barony passed to the last earl's cousin, Thomas Watson Wentworth, created in 1746 Marquis of Rockingham. His son, the 2nd Marquis, who died in 1782, was the chief of the Rockingham Administration, in which Fox and Burke had places. The manor and castle of Rockingham, however, have from the time of the first baron been vested in the Watson family, which still retains them. The existing relics and *pictures* in the castle are consequently of this house. The *hall* was brought to its present condition in the reign of Elizabeth; and, besides the mottoes of the family, an inscription is carried along the principal beams.—"The howse shal be preserved and never wil decaye wheare the Almightie God is honoured and served daye by daye, 1579." In this *hall* and rooms opening from it are—portrait of Sir Jeffry Palmer, Attorney-General of Charles II.; Queen Elizabeth, in a brocaded (striped) dress of dark chocolate colour. From a rope of large pearls round her waist hangs a jewel which she holds up. The face is shadowless. Sir Edward Digby Watson: on one side are the words, "Cuivis dolori remedium patiencia, A. Dni 1552"; on the other, "Secundum formam et habitum ætatis suæ xxxiii." Three boys at cricket (?) or some similar game; assigned to *Gainsborough;* and a small portrait called that of Elizabeth when 21 months old, but questionably. She is in a brocaded dress of red and white, with a large white apron, ruff, cap, and collar edged with lace work. The eyes are brown, and there is a little light brown hair. In the left hand is a cluster of red rose-berries. The ground is a Turkey carpet. On the picture is the inscription, "Æt. 1^{3}_{Q}." Observe also a curious portrait of Sir Edward Watson, blind, with both hands extended in prayer; date 1567. The upper part of the range of buildings at right angles to the hall is occupied by a long gallery with windows at the sides and a large window at the end, the usual gallery of an Elizabethan house, here very picturesque. Three chandeliers of Venetian glass hang from the roof. Among the pictures here are—Lord Strafford ($\frac{3}{4}$, in armour), *Vandyck.* Miss Milles, afterwards 3rd Lady Sondes (seated, in white, blue sash and tall bonnet; landscape background), *Sir J. Reynolds.* Henry Pelham, Chancellor of the Exchequer, d. 1754, and secretary (a good picture, the arrangement evidently imitated from the famous Vandyck of Strafford). His

wife, Lady Catherine Pelham, *A. Kauffman.* (These were the father and mother of the 2nd Lady Sondes.) A large family group of Lord and Lady Sondes and four children; date 1732, *Hudson.*

The castle has been to some extent restored, and additions have been made, under the care of *Salvin;* but the main frontage has been little touched, and a grand mass of ivy drapes the side of the gallery. Steps lead to the keep mound, which rises from the flower garden. Gardens and grounds are extensive and very pleasant, rich in wood-walks and shrubberies. The park, of about 400 acres, is well stocked with deer. Beyond the enclosing wall, and overlooked from the keep, is a meadow known as the tilting ground, surrounded by trees (on one side by a fine avenue of limes). On the S. side is a moat, and a second moat occurs at a distance of about 70 yds. The park is much broken, and deep ravines stretch downward toward the river flats from the ridge over which the park extends, chiefly W. of the castle. There are some fine avenues, dating for the most part from the first half of the last century, when Duke John "the Planter" was busy at Boughton (see Rte. 10). The position of the castle is best seen from the terrace that extends in front of the hall-entrance. "Anywhere, the high site of Rockingham, backed with its avenues of limes and groups of forest trees, would be a fine one; but in Northamptonshire, the wild and broken ground of the park, and the abrupt slopes and earthworks on which the castle stands, make it signally unique. . . . The distant prospect indeed is not of rich woodland; but the long reach of the valley of the Welland, marked, but not marred, by the graceful sweep of the railway, with village after village grouped round its church on every rising ground, ... present a scene of wider and more human interest than many a so-called richer view."—*James.* The scene in certain lights is fine; and when the river is flooded the effect is lake-like. The low hills of Leicestershire rise across the river. Holt, a house of the Nevilles, and Stoke Dry, belonging to the Digbys (who intermarried with Watsons), are conspicuous; and the tower of Langton is a good landmark. (Stilton is not in sight; but it may be added that Stilton cheese is made on the Northamptonshire side of the Welland, as well as in Leicestershire.)

Close under the castle, on the N. side, stands the parish *Church* of Rockingham, ded. (like the ancient chapel of the castle) to St. Leonard (a great forest saint, it may be remembered. Chapels ded. to him frequently occur in wide woodlands). This ch. has been rebuilt—the nave in 1845, the chancel in 1868. (Archit. *Browning,* of Stamford. The restoration is due to the Watson family, and to the zeal of the present (1877) rector, the Rev. H. J. Bigge.) Portions of an early Dec. church were found during the rebuilding in 1845; but the building then removed dated from after the Restoration, since the old church had been in great part destroyed during a bombardment of the castle (held for the King by Sir Lewis Watson) by the Parliamentarians. The present church is very effective, and is of early Dec. character, with a low tower (the upper story octagonal) at the E. end of the N. side of nave. The seating is good, and the effect of the chancel, decorated and coloured throughout, excellent. Even the two large Watson monuments, N. and S., out of place as they are, give furnishing to the chancel. The stained glass of the East window (a memorial to the Hon. R. Watson, d. 1853) is by *Heaton and Butler,* and there are other windows by *Hedgeland* and *O'Connor.* The iron

rail in front of the altar was the gift to the church of Lady Catherine Pelham, circ. 1730. The plate also was given by her. (Her portrait in the castle has been noticed.)

Of the *monuments*, that on the N. side of the chancel is a full-length figure of Anna, Baroness Rockingham, d. 1695, wife of the 2nd Baron, daughter of Lord Strafford. On the S. side is that of Lewis, 1st Earl of Rockingham, d. 1723—and of his wife, Katherine, d. 1695, daughter of Sir George Sondes, afterwards Earl of Feversham. Earl Lewis is in a "Roman habit." His wife has a book under the rt. arm. Cupids, wreaths, and marble flowers, make up the composition. Other monuments, formerly in the chancel, have been removed into a chapel on the S. side. These are—Margaret Watson, fourth daughter of Edward, Lord Rockingham, d. 1713, a twisted figure with strained action; an altar-tomb with recumbent effigies of Edw. Watson (temp. Eliz.) and his wife, daughter of Kenelm Digby of Stoke Dry; Arabella Oseuden, d. 1734, second daughter of the 2nd Baron Rockingham, a full-length figure in white marble; and many mural tablets, including those of three Viscounts Sondes. (This was a second title borne by the Earls of Rockingham. The grandson (maternally) of the 1st Earl was created Baron Sondes. and he assumed the name of Watson on inheriting the estates of his cousin, the 3rd and last Earl of Rockingham.)

The royal *forest of Rockingham* was one of the largest in the kingdom. According to a perambulation of 1286 (14th Edw. I.) it extended from Northampton to Stamford, in length about 33 miles, and from the Nen on the S.E., to the rivers Welland and Maidesell on the N.W., an average breadth of about 8 miles. But much of this country had been afforested after the accession of Hen. II.; and a later perambulation in the reign of Edw. I. considerably reduces the extent. An unsuccessful attempt to revive the older limits was made in the 17th of Charles I.; and the bounds were then settled "as they had been in the 20th year of Jas. I." The forest now consists of three separate districts, called the Bailiwicks of Rockingham, Brigstock, and Clive. There are still deer, although their numbers are not great; and in spite of much denudation and reclamation of land, "many venerable trees, scattered through the unreclaimed district, towering above the underwood, serve to point out the ancient boundaries." But this old forest country has no such glades and no such oaks as Sherwood; and the wanderer will hardly find his account in tracing its limits beyond the park of the castle.

(For places in the neighbourhood of Rockingham, to be reached from the railway station, see Rte. 13.)

ROUTE 12.

WELLINGBOROUGH TO MARKET HARBOROUGH.

Midland Railway.

There are branch lines of the Midland Railway, from Wellingborough to Kettering, and from Kettering to Market Harborough. The entire distance is 17¾ miles. The time occupied is 50 min. Some interesting churches may be visited from the intermediate stations, and Rushton and Rothwell are best accessible by this railway.

L. of the railway, after leaving Wellingborough, are the churches of *Great* and *Little Harrowden*, neither of great importance, yet not without interest. The chancel of Great Harrowden (2 m. by road from Wellingborough) was rebuilt in 1845. There is a *brass* for William "Harwedon," 1433, and his widow. Harrowden Hall was the house of Lord Vaux, whose daughter by his first wife was conspicuous for her attachment to the Jesuit Garnet, at the time of the Gunpowder Plot; she was one of the remarkable party which went on pilgrimage to St. Winifred's well, in September 1605, and she was examined on Garnet's trial. Sir William Vaux of Harrowden was created a baron in 1523. The house of Lord Vaux was carefully searched after the discovery of the plot, but nothing was found to implicate him, and it was not pretended that his daughter had known of it. *Little Harrowden*, restored 1850, is partly E. Eng. [1 m. N. W. from Little Harrowden is the *Ch.* of *Orlingbury*, with much E. Eng. work. It was in part rebuilt and enlarged in 1843. In the chancel is a tomb with effigy, circa 1375, called that of "Jock of Batsaddle," who died, says the local tradition, from drinking cold water at a spring now called Batsaddle Spring, after killing a wolf and a wild boar in the meadow near his house. Batsaddle was a moated manor-house in the parish.] We reach the first *station* at

3 m. *Finedon* (*Tingdene* in Domesday, and still sometimes called Thingdon). The *Church* (ded. to St. Mary the Virgin) stands prominently on a hill above the line, and well deserves a visit, since it is architecturally one of the best in this part of Northamptonshire. It is surrounded by old yew-trees mixed with hollies; and a long avenue leading to it is known as the "Holly Walk." The church is throughout early Dec. (beginning of the 14th cent.), with the exception of the western tower and spire, an entirely distinct work, not earlier than 1350. The ground-plan shows the broad short nave and the well-developed chancel displayed by so many churches in the county. The most remarkable feature of the interior is the strainer or straining arch at the E. end of the nave. The *tower* is of four stories, with buttresses of five stages, terminating under the belfry. There are single windows in the 3rd story (above the W. door and the great W. window); and in the belfry stage are tall double-windows, with a quatrefoil in the heading. Bands of rich panelling are introduced in the third stage and above the belfry lights, and the tower finishes in a kind of trefoiled corbel table, above which is an embattled parapet. The height thus far is 76 ft. The spire, with two series of two-light windows, rises to 133 ft. The whole composition, of one date, is very rich and beautiful. *Outside* the church the same basement moulding is carried quite round; the buttresses project boldly and are good. The windows in the aisles and chancel have elongated, uncusped, reticulated tracery; the others (in the transepts) are of three acutely pointed uncusped lights. *Within*, the nave of 4 bays has lofty piers of a quatrefoiled section, with moulded capitals, except that at the S.W. corner of the S. transept, which has very good foliage proceeding from the mouth of a mask. The straining arch "was not inserted until the clerestory had been visibly thrust in, and the ingenuity with which the remedy of a serious defect has been converted into a great ornament cannot be too much commended." It is much enriched with quatrefoils and a battlemented moulding, and resembles the arch introduced for a similar reason at *Rushden* (Rte. 2). The mouldings are the same, though the designs are slightly varied. A low stone screen, with open work, extends across the

chancel arch. It had no doubt an arch over the central door, which has disappeared. There is a curious Norman font with a sculpture of the Annunciation. The original open seats, of late Perp. character, remain in the nave and aisles, and have (what is very unusual) doors carved in the same manner as the bench-ends. The church contains a chest (not of ecclesiastical character) inlaid with ebony and ivory. In it is kept a basin, used sometimes for baptism, of mother-of-pearl and silver. There are no monuments of interest. At the time the church was built, a nephew of Bishop Burnell, Chancellor to Ed. I., had property in Finedon, and if he inherited his uncle's love of building he may have displayed it here. The church, from about 1349, was appropriated to Croxden Abbey in Staffordshire; but Cistercians would hardly have built so enriched a tower. The *parvise chamber*, above the S. porch, contains a library founded by Sir John English Dolben in 1788. There are some good editions of the Fathers, and a copy of Wilkin's 'Concilia.' It should be added that the *organ*, built by Christopher Shrider, son-in-law of "Father Smith," was opened (May 17, 1717) by Dr. Croft; and that Kent, the writer of many well-known anthems, was the first organist.

S. of the village is *Finedon Hall* (Mrs. Dolben), the grounds of which deserve notice. There is an arboretum of considerable extent, a very fine triple avenue of lime-trees nearly ½ m. long, and a large sheet of water, the resort in winter of large flocks of wild fowl. Ironstone is much worked in this neighbourhood, and there are large works belonging to the "Glendon Iron Company" very near Finedon.

A short course of 1 m. brings us to the *station* for

Isham and *Burton Latimer*.

The *Church* of *Isham* (the *ham* or "home" on the Ise brook) lies l. of the railway, and has Norm. and E. Eng. portions. It was restored in 1870, but has not the interest of *Burton Latimer* church, which lies rt. This is a large church of various dates, with a nave of 6 bays and a half, and a well-developed chancel. The first three bays and a half (westward) are Norman; the W. tower was added early in the 13th cent.; and toward the close of the same century the Norman ch. (except the 3 bays just mentioned) was pulled down, and the present nave and chancel constructed. Some alteration took place afterwards, in Perpendicular days. The tower is throughout of E. Eng. character, with blank arcades and good windows. (The door on the N. side is a Dec. insertion.) The battlements and spire are later. *Within* the church there is a curious mixture of Norm. and E. Eng. work, especially at the junction of the two styles.

We pass onward, leaving *Barton Seagrave*, with its interesting Norm. church, to the rt. (see Rte. 9) to

2¾ m. *Kettering*, where is a junction with the rly. coming from Huntingdon and Thrapston (see Rte. 14). (For Kettering see Rte. 9; and for the country north of it, Rte. 10.)

The first *station* beyond Kettering is 2¾ m., *Rushton*. A line in connexion with the Midland Rly. is (1878) in course of construction, from Rushton to Manton in Rutland. (The churches of *Thorpe Malsor*, *Loddington* and *Orton* are passed at some distance l., but contain little of interest. Orton is a chapelry attached to Rothwell, and the chancel arch is Norm.) The points of interest at Rushton are the *Church*, seen before reaching the station, and the *Triangular Lodge*, the very curious building of Sir Thomas Tresham. From Rushton may be visited the market-town of *Rothwell* (2 m. S.W.), where the *Market-house* and the *Church* well deserve attention.

The manor of Rushton passed with

other estates into the hands of Sir William Tresham about 1428. The family was one of considerable importance; and Bridges, who gives a pedigree for seven generations, reckons among the Treshams six sheriffs and five members for Northamptonshire. The history of Sir Thomas Tresham, the builder of the lodge here, and of the "new building" at Lyveden, has been partly given in Rte. 2 (*Lyveden*). Although the Treshams had been strongly attached to the "old religion," Sir Thomas, who succeeded to the estates as a minor, had for some unknown reason been brought up as a Protestant, but soon (under the influence of Campion and Parsons) returned to his church, and underwent throughout his life a long series of pains and penalties. He was frequently imprisoned and fined, and for 20 years it is asserted that he paid regularly into the treasury £260 a year for recusancy. Writing to Lord Howard about two years before his death, he said that "he had completed his triple apprenticeship in direct adversity, and that the years seemed to him but a few days, for the love he bore his beautiful, beloved, and graceful Rachael,"—meaning the Catholic Church. He was last imprisoned in Dec. 1596, and discharged Dec. 8, 1597. He died in September, 1605, and was succeeded by his eldest son Francis, the conspirator. Of his six daughters, two married the Lords Stourton and Mounteagle, whose names are both connected with the Gunpowder Plot. There is no reason for believing that Sir Thomas Tresham knew anything of this plot. The part which his son played in it has been thoroughly shown in *Jardine's* 'History of the Gunpowder Plot,' the best and fullest account which exists. It is probable that the famous warning letter to Lord Mounteagle was written by this Francis Tresham, who died in prison, December 23, 1605. The Rushton estates were then confiscated, and were afterwards bought by Sir William Cockayne. They are now the property of W. C. Clarke Thornhill, Esq., of *Rushton Hall*.

Rushton Hall is built round three sides of a quadrangle; the fourth side being closed by a "Doric" screen. The house was begun by Sir Thomas Tresham about 1595; was continued by the Cockaynes, and finished in 1630. (The date 1595 occurs on one of the gables. Other parts bear the shield of the Cockaynes, and the dates 1626, 1627.) There is a belief that John Dryden visited Rushton on different occasions, and that he wrote some part of the 'Hind and Panther' here. The old home of the Treshams would have been no unfitting place for the meditation of that poem; but no extant letter of Dryden's, and no other authority, asserts that he was ever at Rushton. A curious discovery was made in the house of Rushton in 1832. In removing a lintel above a doorway a Roman breviary fell out. Farther search revealed an opening in a thick stone wall, 5 ft. long and 15 in. wide, containing about 20 books and several bundles of MSS. The books were chiefly books of devotion. The MSS. consisted of historical notes by Sir Thomas Tresham, building bills, deed, and farming contracts; a portion of the domestic correspondence of the Tresham family between 1590 and 1605; and a memorandum of certain bonds "delivered up to Mrs. Tresham, Nov. 28th, 1605, by the writer of the memorandum," who signs no name. This Mrs. Tresham was the wife of Francis the conspirator; and the books and papers were no doubt concealed when it was expected that Rushton would be searched, like the houses of others concerned in the plot. (A calendar of the papers, which seem to be of no great historical importance, has been printed by *Taylor* of Northampton.)

The "building bills" of Sir Thomas might, however, be expected to throw some light on the curious *Triangular Lodge* which was certainly built by him, and which is mentioned in the pocket-book of Captain Richard Symonds, the Royalist (printed by the *Camden Soc.* 1859) thus—"Rushton.—Sir Thomas Tresham built part of this faire house, and also the pretty Warren-house." (Symonds saw it on his march, 8 days before Naseby.) The "Warren House" is no doubt the Lodge. For Sir Thomas's passion for building, and his love of mystical sculpture and devices, see *Lyveden*, Rte. 2. The "fancies" displayed at Lyveden were carried to a far greater excess in this lodge at Rushton; and it has been suggested that both buildings were the result of his position as a persecuted "recusant." "He was not allowed to have the mass celebrated in his own house, nor could he openly build a chapel for the purpose; so he erected near each of his principal mansions a building with more or less of a religious as well as a secular character about it, that under the latter it might the better escape notice, but be fitted, when it could be done with safety, to be used for the purposes of religion."—*Rev. H. Ward.* The *lodge* stands at the extremity of the grounds, near the railway, about ½ m. from the house. The building itself, and every part of it, is emblematical of the Holy Trinity. The ground-plan is an equilateral triangle, each side measuring 33 ft. 3 in. There are 3 floors, cellar, ground-floor, and upper floor; 3 windows in each story on each of the 3 sides, and each of these windows has divisions or compartments of threes. The shields of arms are arranged on each side in twice three couplets in 3 lines. Each of the long Latin inscriptions consists of 33 letters; and the single words below them are three sets of two letters on each face of the building. The trefoil of the Tresham arms is indicated in the form of the windows in the lowest and uppermost stages. The roof is finished with 3 gables on either side, each gable carrying a pinnacle terminating in a trefoil. There is a central pinnacle, the sides of which are covered with trefoils. On the S.E. side is the door, approached by a flight of steps, and entering on the 2nd story. The various shields, devices, and inscriptions will occupy some time in reading. Below the windows of the 2nd story are the date 1593, and the initials of the builder, T. T *The side containing the entrance.*—On the 1st gable are the figures 3898, and underneath them the seven-branched candlestick. On the 2nd gable, "Respicite" and a sun-dial. On the 3rd, 3509 and the stone with seven eyes upon it (Zech. iii. 9). Under the gables runs the inscription, "Aperiatur terra et germinet salvatorem" (Isaiah xlv. 8); and above the windows, the letters of the word "Mentes," part of the inscription "Mentes tuorum visita," one word of which is on each side. Above the door is a shield with the Tresham arms, the inscription "Tres Testimonium dant," and four large figures of 5. *N.E. side.*—On the gables are a hen with chicken, a dial, and a pelican in her piety. Above the dial are the words "Non mihi;" above the hen, 1641; and above the pelican, 1626. Under the gables is the inscription, "Quis separabit nos a charitate Christi." *N.W. side.*—On the gables, a dove sitting on a serpent which encircles the globe; a dial; and a hand out of clouds grasping the world. Over the door and the hand are the numbers 1595 and 1580; and above the dial, "Soli laboravi." (The whole inscription thus runs, "Respicite; non mihi soli laboravi.") Below are the words, "Consideravi opera tua Domine et expavi." On the sides of the shaft which supports the central pinnacle are the date 1595

(repeated on each), the holy lamb, the chalice, and the sacred monogram; and the words "Esto mihi lege salus."—Angels bearing shields project below the gable cornice. The letters on the breast of each angel, and on the shield have been explained to mean "Qui est et qui erit et qui venturus est, Sanctus Sanctus Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth;" each letter being the initial of a word. The figures or dates are too mysterious to be at all intelligible. The many shields of arms are those of Tresham and its intermarriages. Within the house the only arms are those of the builder impaling Throckmorton. (Sir Thomas married Muriel, daughter of Sir R. Throckmorton.) The rooms within are hexagonal, the corners of the large triangle being separated off into triangular closets, one of which contains the staircase.

With this lodge seems to be connected the following curious extract from a letter of Sir Thomas Tresham, found among the MSS. at Rushton, and communicated to 'Notes and Queries' (Nov. 26, 1853) by Mr. Jardine. "If it be demanded," writes Sir Thomas, "why I labour so much in the Trinity and Passion of Christ to depaint in this chamber, this is the principal instance thereof: That at my last being hither" (Wisbeach Castle, in which he was more than once imprisoned) "committed, and I usually having my servants here allowed me, to read nightly an hour to me after supper, it fortuned that Fulcis my then servant, reading in the *Christian Revolution*, in the treatise of *Proof there is a God, &c.*, there was upon a wainscot table at that instant, three loud knocks (as if it had been with an iron hammer) given; to the great amazing of me and my two servants, Fulcis and Nilkton."

Rushton *Church*, restored 1869, is ded. to All Saints. A second church, ded. to St. Peter, stood close to the hall, and represented a distinct manor. This church was pulled down during the present century. *All Saints* has chancel and nave, with north aisles to each. The nave piers are round, of the 13th cent.; those in the chancel are later. The windows in the N. aisle are Perp. At the S. of the chancel is a vestry with high-pitched stone roof. On the N. side of the chancel is the altar-tomb with effigy of Sir Thomas Tresham (not the builder, but his grandfather), last Lord Prior in England of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. He wears plate-armour with mail gussets, and a long mantle with a cross flory on the breast, the habit of the order assigned to it by Pope Honorius III. On his fingers are many rings. On the sides of the tomb are shields of arms, and a half-defaced inscription. "If," says Fuller, "the dimensions of his body may be guessed by his finger, and his finger by his ring, which I have seen in possession of his kinsman, he was a little giant, and far greater than his portraiture on his monument." He was made Lord Prior by Queen Mary in 1557 (the order had been suppressed by Hen. VIII., and was revived by Mary), a distinction which entitled him to be regarded as "primus Angliæ baro," since the Priors took their seat in Parliament above the temporal lords. He did not live, however, long after the accession of Elizabeth. His monument was removed from the destroyed church of St. Peter, together with a much earlier effigy in the N. chapel. This is a cross-legged knight, temp. Hen. III.; of earlier date than the connexion of the Treshams with Rushton. There are some modern memorial windows of stained glass in the chancel; and a fine modern *brass* in the nave, in memory of the wife of W. C. C. Thornhill, Esq.

[The little town of *Rothwell*, generally called *Rowell*, is about

2 m. S.W. of Rushton station, and stands on the high road from Kettering to Market Harborough. The pop. in 1871 was 2375. The objects of interest are the unfinished *market-house* and the *Church*. The *market-house* was begun by Sir Thomas Tresham; and although not so quaintly fantastic as his other buildings, shows distinctly the mark of his hand, and has some general resemblance to the "new build" at Lyveden. It is a square building with projections, enriched with pilasters, and raised on open arches. On a central band is the inscription, "Thome Tresami militis fuit hoc opus in gratium dulcis patriæ. Fecit suæ tribusque Northamptoniæ vel maxime hujusque vicini sibi pagi. Nihil præter bonum commune quæsivit nihil præter decus perpenne amicorum. Male qui interpretatur dignus haud tanto est bono. Ao. Domini millesimo quingentesimo septuagesimo septimo." On the cornice and eisewhere are the shields of the principal Northamptonshire families at the time of the erection. The walls were repaired in 1827, but the market-house remains "unfinished" and unused. The *Church*, said to be the longest in the county, has Norman portions (S. wall of chancel); Transition (nave, chancel and lower stages of tower); Early Dec. (tower arch and Lady-chapel on N. side of chancel) and Perp. (clerestory of nave and E. window). The transepts were removed in 1673; the spire fell in 1660, and the chancel was restored in 1848. This is the most striking portion of the church. There is a *brass* for William de Rothwelle, d. 1361, Archdeacon of Essex, in cope, and another for Ed. Saunders, of Haryngton, 1514 (founder of chantry), and wife. The chantry which he founded now serves as the vestry. —Under two bays of the S. aisle, immediately W. of the transept, is a crypt, 30 ft. 3 in. long, 15 ft. 6 in. wide, and 8 ft. 6 in. high. It is of the Transition period, like the rest of the church, and had long been closed, when it was accidentally discovered by some workmen about the year 1700. It was then filled with carefully piled human bones, now half-mouldered away. They may represent perhaps 4000 persons: and the bones were piled here, as in the crypts at Ripon, and at Hythe in Kent, either when part of the churchyard was cleared, or as they occurred in making fresh graves. Similar collections of human skulls and bones occur in the "bone houses" or ossuaries attached to many churches in Brittany. A local tradition (of course entirely without foundation) declares the remains here to be those of the men who fell at Naseby.—The manor of Rothwell, from the middle of the 12th century, belonged to the Earls of Clare, who may have been the builders of the church.]

We reach at

2½ m. *Desborough* Station. The church is mainly E. Eng. The manor for 14 generations belonged to the Pulton family, one of whom, Ferdinando Pulton, who is buried in the chancel, was the compiler of the "Statutes at Large," from Magna Carta to the 16th of James I.

Left of the line is seen *Braybrooke Church*, E. Eng. and Dec., with a monument for Sir Nicholas Griffin, d. 1509, and the effigy of a cross-legged knight, 7 ft. in length, probably of Sir Thomas le Latymer (died 1334). Lord Braybrooke takes the title of his barony (created 1788) from this parish. East of the village, in the "castle field," stood the castle of the Braybrookes, surrounded by a double ditch. At farther distance l., are seen the towers of *Oxenden Magna* (on high ground; the church is Dec. with a Norm. font. The Rev. John Morton, author of the 'Nat. Hist. of Northamptonshire,' 1712, was rector from 1706 to 1737. He was buried in the chancel, where is a monument

to his memory) and *East Farndon*, noticeable as the place where the despatches of Charles I. were taken after the battle of Naseby. The Royalists had moved through the village to the battle-field (5 m. S.). In a field adjoining *Farndon Hall* (Mrs. Fagan) are some extensive earthworks, which, as Mr. Bloxam suggests, may have been connected with others at Sibbertoft and at Rockingham. He regards them as having been frontier fortresses of the Dobuni, on the S. side of the Welland.

Passing *Little Bowden*, where the church tower (not early) is of wood, we soon reach

5 m. *Market Harborough.* (See *Handbook for Leicestershire.*)

ROUTE 13.

RUGBY TO MARKET HARBOROUGH: MARKET HARBOROUGH TO STAMFORD.

London and North-Western Railway.

This line follows for a part of its course the valley of the Avon, here but a small stream. From Theddingworth to Stamford it follows the river Welland. Both the Avon and the Welland mark the boundary of the county. The railway runs for the most part through Leicestershire and Rutland. Only those places are here noticed which are in Northamptonshire, and adjoin the line, or the stations. For others, see *Handbook for Leicestershire*, and *Rutland* (*post*).

From Rugby to Market Harborough the time occupied in the journey is nearly ¾ hr. For *Rugby*, see *Handbook for Warwickshire*. Passing a small *station* at *Clifton Mill* we reach

Lilbourne Stat. within the Northants border. This place appears to represent the *Tripontium* of the 6th Antonine Iter. The Watling Street passed a very short distance W., and the Avon is crossed by a long bridge, the successor of the Roman "pons." There are traces of an encampment on either side of the stream; and at Lilbourne itself are other remains. Close to the river are banks and foundations, with a high mount on the N.W., Brito-Roman earthworks in all probability, which were turned to account in the building of a mediæval castle, the work (apparently) of Gerard de Camville, in the reign of Stephen. The walls of this castle have disappeared. It is asserted that a keep or watch-tower stood on the mount, and that the churches of Lilbourne and Clay Coton were built from its materials. There is a second mount about ½ m. W. of the village, with traces of a moat round it; and near the Watling Street S. of Dovebridge, was a third, which has been levelled. The tradition of the place is that there was a great fight here between Danes and Saxons; but nothing has been found to make it certain whether these mounds are sepulchral, or whether they served as "speculatoria."

Lilbourne *Church* is partly E. Eng. (nave and aisles) but is of no interest. The tower is Dec.

The line here bends into Northamptonshire, and reaches

Yelvertoft Station. (The village and church of Yelvertoft lie some distance S.E. The important *Church*

of *Stanford* (see *post*) is best visited from this station, whence it is distant ¾ m.) Yelvertoft *Church* deserves notice for the sake of the very rich tomb with window above it, of an ecclesiastic—probably John Dyeson, rector (1445–1479), who left a considerable sum for the repairs of the church. On the exterior, the space from the ground to the sill of the window is covered with courses of quatrefoils of different characters. The effigy, within, has a rich canopy of alabaster. The date of the original church is Dec., but a second S. aisle was added in the Perp. period, and there are other Perp. insertions. The Dec. porch seems to have been taken down and rebuilt in the 15th cent. The sedilia are Perp. Some of the old seats remain, and new ones were added during the restoration in 1870.

Between Yelvertoft and the next station we pass rt. *Claycoton*, where is a small Dec. church (nave rebuilt 1866) of not much interest; and l. *Stanford*, where the church is of special importance. The manor of Stanford belonged to Selby Abbey in Yorkshire, from a date soon after the Conquest to the Dissolution. It was then (1540) bought from the crown by Thomas Cave, the representative of an old Yorkshire family, taking its name from the parishes of Cave in the E. Riding. Stanford descended to the daughter of Sir Thomas Cave, Bart., who in 1839 became Baroness Braye, the barony having been revived in her favour as the representative, through her great-grandmother, of the 1st Lord Braye. The Baroness died in 1869, and her three daughters are now the joint possessors of the hall and manor. *Stanford Hall* stands on the N. side of the Avon, in a deer park of considerable extent, and was rebuilt by Sir Roger Cave about 1670. The older manor-house stood in the village of Stanford, close to the *Church*. This (ded. St. Nicholas) belongs throughout to the first half of the fourteenth century, and is no doubt due to the Benedictines of Selby. The parapet and pinnacles of the tower, although debased additions, increase the general effect. The windows are of two characters, with plain crossed tracery, and with rich geometrical headings. "The striking effect of the *interior* is due chiefly to the absence of seats throughout the aisles and a great part of the nave, and to the slenderness of the pillars, rising with continuous mouldings into pointed arches, which are surrounded by a hood of the roll-moulding." An organ-gallery intercepts the tower arch; and contains an organ once belonging to the royal palace of Whitehall, but sold by Cromwell, and erected here. There is some good Perp. screen work under the gallery. The rood screen was brought from Lutterworth. Furniture for the pulpit and altar, besides the coverings of a large Bible and Prayer Book, were worked and given by Lady Rowe, wife of Sir Thomas Rowe, sent ambassador to Constantinople in 1621. These gifts were designed as thank-offerings for the preservation of Sir Thomas and his wife in a great storm at sea, on their return from Turkey, whence, we are told, "they precipitately fled on account of the Sultan's having discovered too great a regard for Lady Rowe, who remarkably excelled, both in the beauties of her person and her mind." The history of the gift is recorded on a leaf of the Bible in contemporary writing. The church is rich in ancient *stained glass* and in monuments. The glass fills the East and four other windows in the chancel, and some windows in the aisles, and although it has been rearranged and altered by incompetent persons, it is still of very great interest, and will amply repay study. It is chiefly Dec., with smaller portions belonging to the

Perp. and Cinquecento styles. The earliest is in the E. window, and may date from the end of Edw. II.'s reign. In the upper part of the window the glass remains in its original position. The lower portion is of later date, partly Dec. and partly (in the fine group of kneeling figures) Cinquecento. These figures, as appears from the arms on the tabard, represent members of the Cave family. In the other windows the glass may vary in date from about 1340 to 1360. "There is, however, so great a similarity between all of it, in drawing and arrangement of colour, as to justify the supposition that it was all executed under the same superintendence, if not by the same artist."—*C. Winston.* There are various figures of holy personages and of saints. A local tradition bears that all this glass was saved at the Rebellion by the parishioners, who turned out in defence of their windows, and prevented the destruction of them by the Roundheads. (A full notice of it by the late Mr. *Winston*, will be found in 'Architectural Notices of the Churches in the Archdeaconry of Northampton,' 1849.) The *monuments* (the earlier ones at least), although "valuable as family memorials, and curious as exhibiting the decline of ecclesiastical art, add nothing to the architectural beauties of the church." There is, however, a sepulchral recess of much beauty in the S. aisle, with a mutilated recumbent figure. Of the more recent, there is one for the late Baroness Braye, by *Mrs. Thorneycroft;* one for the Hon. R. Otway Cave, by *Westmacott;* and a third, by *Kessell*, for the Hon. Thomas Otway Cave. Nearly all the memorials in the church are for the family of Cave.

The next *station* is for *Welford* and *Kilworth.* The latter is in Leicestershire. *Welford* has been described in Rte. 8. The village and church are 2½ m. from this station. Naseby (see the same Rte.) is 3 m. beyond Welford. From the Welford station the railway runs through Leicestershire to the next station at

Theddingworth, where it reaches the valley of the Welland. (The Avon, descending from the high ground of Naseby, turns S.W. near the Welford station. The Welland, rising from the same ridge, flows N.E. toward Stamford. See Rte. 8.) The church of Theddingworth, is on the Leicestershire side of the river. In Northamptonshire is *Hothorpe House* (Henry Everett, Esq.). Between Theddingworth and the next station is (rt.) *Marston Trussell*, where the church has E. Eng. portions. It is known as "pudding-poke" Marston, because the main road terminates at the church in a *cul-de-sac.* At that place a number of the King's troops, in their flight from Naseby, were overtaken and cut to pieces—since from the nature of the ground they were unable to continue their retreat. A very short distance beyond Marston we reach

Lubenham Station. Here Charles I., on his way from Leicester to Oxford, lodged for the night between June 4th and 5th, 1645, at the house of a Mr. Collins, still remaining. The room is shown which the King used on this occasion, and again on the night between June 12th and 13th—after the retreat from Daventry. Charles was roused here at two in the morning, and rode off to Market Harborough, whence he advanced to the battle-field of Naseby. (For all these movements see Rte. 8.) The next station is *Market Harborough* (see *Handbook for Leicestershire*).

Here is a *junction* with rlys. from Northampton (Rte. 8) and from Wellingborough and Kettering (Rte. 12). Rlys. run from Market Harborough to Leicester, to Rugby, and

to Stamford. (That to Rugby we have been following; and advance on that to Stamford.)

The railway from Market Harborough follows the left bank of the Welland, and bends nearly north to the *station* at *Medbourne Bridge*. The country on the Northamptonshire side is pleasant, but none of the churches within reach of this station call for special notice. *Weston* ch. (1 m.) was entirely rebuilt in 1863. The style is E. Eng. All the windows are filled with stained glass. *Ashley*, 1 m. E. of Weston, has been more elaborately restored, with stained windows, alabaster reredos, decorated roof, and wall painting (in the chancel) illustrative of the Te Deum. *Sutton Basset*, 1 m. S. of Weston, was restored in 1861, but the original Norman features were carefully preserved. The Bassets were lords here, temp. Hen. II. *Dingley*, 2 m. S. (and 2 m. also on the road from Market Harborough to Stamford), is more interesting. The church is unimportant; but *Dingley Hall* (H. V. F. Hungerford, Esq.), standing on comparatively high ground E. of the church, occupies the site of a preceptory of Knights Hospitallers, who acquired property here in the reign of Stephen. These lands afterwards passed to the family of Griffin. Some portions of the preceptory remain. One of the porches was added in 1558 by Edward Griffin, then Attorney-General; and a second porch, leading to the great hall, although not given to him, must also be of his date. On the gateway is the date 1560. The S. front was built in 1684 by Sir Edward Griffin; and part of the Eastern wing seems to have been the chapel of the preceptory.—On the same line of high road from Market Harborough are *Brampton* Ch. (1½ m. from Dingley), E. Eng. and Perp. restored 1849; *Wilbarston*, of no interest; and *Stoke Albany*;—the ch. is ded. to St. Alban, the patron saint possibly of the De Albinis, who held the manor temp. Hen. II. It was restored in 1872. The manor-house near it has some windows which may be E. Eng. Adjoining is *Stoke Albany House* (General Cotton).

The next station is at *Rockingham*. The village is distant from the station nearly 1 mile. For Rockingham see Rte. 11.

2 m. S.W. of Rockingham is *Cottingham*, where the church is E. Eng. and Dec. 1 m. farther is *East Carlton Park* (Sir Geoffry Palmer, Bart.). The house was restored and enlarged in 1870. Carlton *Church* was rebuilt in 1778, in a Gothic which is unusually good for that period. There are some Palmer monuments in the S. transept.

Leaving Rockingham, the railway soon enters Rutland, and continues in that county until it reaches Stamford. There are two intermediate stations; one at *Seaton*, from which *Uppingham* is reached, and another at *Luffenham*.

In Northamptonshire, the church of *Gretton*, standing high on the ridge N. of Rockingham, is seen, rt. as the train passes. It has no great interest, and the woods which formerly clothed the ridge, and were enclosed in Rockingham forest, have nearly disappeared. At *Harringworth*, 2 m. N., the old cross remains in the market-place. All places of importance or interest between Rockingham and Stamford are described in Rte. 10. For *Stamford* see Rte. 3.

ROUTE 14.

THRAPSTON TO KETTERING.

Midland Railway.

This Rte. follows a portion of the Midland Railway from Cambridge to Kettering. The line passes through the centre of the Ironstone district. The Staveley Company at Cranford, the Woodford, the Newbridge, the Islip, and the Thrapston Companies are all busily engaged in sending the iron ore (a hydrated peroxide) into Derbyshire, Staffordshire, and Yorkshire; whilst a great deal is also supplied to the Dowlais and Tredegar furnaces in S. Wales. Large smelting-works (Mr. Plevins's) will be seen on the rt. hand soon after leaving Thrapston. The mineral tolls taken at Twywell station amount to some 45,000*l.* a year. The neighbouring villages are rapidly changing their character, owing to the influx of miners and furnace men.

Twywell Stat. The church here, Norm. and E. Eng., was restored in 1867, and is interesting for the Easter Sepulchre in its chancel. Shortly after passing Twywell, is seen, l. *Woodford Lodge* (Hon. Mrs. Arbuthnot). Here is a good portrait of the great Duke of Wellington. There is again a *station* at

Cranford, between the two parishes of Cranford St. Andrew and Cranford St. John. Rt. is Cranford Hall (Sir John Blencowe Robinson, Bart.). An elm and an ash-tree in the park are famous for their size. The church of Cranford St. Andrew was restored, 1847: that of Cranford St. John (rt. of the line) in 1842. Neither is of much importance.

The spire of Kettering is soon seen on the hill, rt., and the train rapidly reaches that *station*. (For *Kettering* see Rte. 9.)

ROUTE 15.

THRAPSTON TO KIMBOLTON.

By this Rte. we travel on a portion of the Midland railway running from Market Harborough to Cambridge. The first station, at Raunds, is in Northamptonshire. The church of Raunds is of very great interest; and from that place the churches of Stanwick and of Hargrave may easily be visited. (A pedestrian may walk from Raunds by Stanwick to Higham Ferrers, where he will find a station on the line from Northampton to Peterborough. See Rte. 1. The distance from Raunds to Stanwick is about 2 m. Thence to Higham Ferrers it is 3 m.)

The *Raunds* station is 1¼ m. from the church and village. (The meaning of the name is very uncertain. *Rand* or *rond*, A.S. = a border or edge, has been suggested, and the place certainly lies on the extreme limit of Northamptonshire.) The village is of some size (pop. of parish in 1871, 2580), and it is one of the shoe-making centres of the district. For the visitor, the interest of the place is confined to the *Church* (dedicated to St. Peter), which is one of the most striking and important even

in this part of Northamptonshire. It has been partly restored (1874-6), by *Sir G. G. Scott.* The magnificent tower and spire, dating from the first half of the 13th cent., are alone worth a journey to Raunds. The ground-plan comprises W. tower, nave with N. and S. aisles, S. porch, chancel, and a N. chapel or chantry opening from it. The lower parts of chancel and N. chapel, are E. Eng. of the same date as the tower. Other E. Eng. portions exist in the nave and porch; and it is clear that the church was completed at one period. The nave with its arcade was rebuilt in the reign of Ed. III., together with the clerestory of the chancel. The plan resembles that of most Northamptonshire churches, and exhibits a somewhat short, broadly spaced nave, with a well-developed chancel.

The church stands on high ground, which falls rapidly a little W. of the tower. This rises in four stages, each of which is richly decorated. In the lowest is the western doorway, a recessed porch, having the outer and inner arches elaborately moulded, with shafts in the jambs. On either side is a trefoiled arch, forming the head of a niche. In the second stage is a bold arcade, of which the two central arches contain lancet windows; the outer ones have quatrefoil lights, well moulded, and set in the panel contained by the arch. Between the spandrels of the arches are small quatrefoil sunk panels. The third stage is decorated in a very unusual manner. A tall pediment in the centre, and a half pediment on either side, rise to the moulding below the fourth or belfry stage. Under the central pediment is a two-light pointed window. Below, on either side, is a large quatrefoil, and a similar quatrefoil occurs above, on either side of the central pediment. The belfry stage has an arcade of six arches, the four central ones open as windows. Tall buttresses, two at each angle of the tower, rise to the spring of the window arches in the belfry stage. At the top of the tower is a cornice filled with masks. The broach spire is octagonal, without a parapet, and there are three ranges of spire lights. This spire was struck by lightning in July, 1826, and about 30 feet were thrown down. It was at once rebuilt, and the original character has been most carefully preserved. It rises to a height of 180 ft. On the N. and S. sides of the tower, there are two arcades below the belfry windows, in some of the spandrels of which are figures playing on musical instruments.

The tower should be seen from a point at a short distance W., where the peculiar effect of the pedimented stage with the quatrefoils is very marked. On the *exterior* of the church, remark the windows (those of the N. aisle are original), Dec. with good flowing tracery in the headings. The fine E. window is E. Eng., of six lights, with plain circles in the head, the heads of the lights trefoiled. The chancel buttresses are good E. Eng.

Within, the nave, of five bays, is Dec., except the western responds on either side, which are E. Eng. The arches N. have hood-moulds terminating in corbels; those S. have no hood-moulds. The plain open roof, with spandrels filled with pierced tracery is of the same date. The chancel arch is Dec. with deep hollow mouldings on the E. face; on the W. face the mouldings are shallow, and a double row of ball-flowers is set in them. It has been inserted across one of the E. Eng. side arches, and has a large buttress in the aisle to support it. Three plain E. Eng. arches divide the chancel from the chapel of S. Peter on the N. side, also at first E. Eng., but with Dec. and Perp. insertions. The clerestory of the chancel is a Dec. addition. There is a piscina in the *east* wall, on the S. side of

the altar, and two others with a sedile in the S. wall. At the W. end of the church remark the E. Eng. tower arch, deeply recessed, with a low arch of the 15th cent. inserted in it, in connexion with the vault then introduced in the tower. The composition of the double lancet above the W. doorway is of great beauty, with inner open arches having foliated headings, and carried on shafts with enriched capitals. The plain, round, E. Eng. font has a ram's head projecting from the side. The only tomb of interest is that of John Wales, vicar, d. 1496. In the ch.-yd. are the steps and shaft of a late Dec. cross, with emblems of the Evangelists on the four sides of the shaft. That of St. Matthew is, very unusually, a bird with a human face, instead of an angel.

The patronage of the church, at the time of its first (E. Eng.) building, seems to have been in the Crown; and in 1254, Edmund, son of Hen. III., is recorded as presenting John of Twyford to the rectory. In 1355, Henry, Duke of Lancaster, gave the advowson to the Dean and Chapter of the College of Newark, in Leicester. These dates agree sufficiently with the two periods of the architecture; and the royal patronage to some extent explains the dignity and richness given to the E. Eng. building.

A very fine barn of the 13th cent., with high pitched roof (worth attention) and a range of low buttresses, exists near the church.

[A walk of 2 m. along high ground, commanding a wide extent of rich corn country, will bring the tourist to *Stanwick*, where the church (St. Lawrence) well deserves a visit. It was originally E. Eng., with a tower, also E. Eng., but of somewhat later date. The church was altered in Dec. and Perp. times. The chancel was rebuilt in 1823; and there has been a later restoration. The special interest and peculiarity of the church, however, lie in its octangular E. Eng. tower, the effect of which, with its Dec. spire, is very excellent. The tower is an octagon, but the N.E. and S.E. sides are filled with the tower stairs, so that a square surface is presented to the body of the church. The basement story is flanked by very good buttresses, which do not rise higher. The W. window is a single lancet, with a pierced octofoil above it. The belfry stage is slightly recessed from the lower octagon, and has an arcade of round-headed arches, of which those facing the cardinal points are pierced with two lancets. The octagon terminates above in a table of trefoiled corbels. The peculiar arrangement of the tower stairs should be noticed. Thus far the work dates from about 1220. The spire above may have formed part of the original plan, but is Dec. It is octagonal, ribbed at the angles, and has three ranges of spire lights. The total height is 156 ft. *Within* the church the best feature is the very fine and wide arcade, E. Eng., though the arches are four-centred, a form very unusual for that style. In the nave there have been Perp. insertions. The latest restoration has swept away a singing-gallery "done in Doric woodwork," which crossed the tower, and interfered with the view westward. This and other adornments were placed here by the father of Richard Cumberland, who was for some years (1731-1757) rector of Stanwick. The dramatist was himself born here. The pulpit was the gift of John Dolben, Bp. of Rochester, 1678, as appears from an inscription on it. The father of Bp. Dolben had been rector here (1623–1631). The font is very rich Dec. Ascelin de Waterville temp. Hen. II., granted his manor of Stanwick to the Abbot of Peterborough, and this, together with the patronage of the church,

remained in possession of the abbey until the Dissolution. The church therefore was no doubt built by that great house.

The church of *Hargrave* lies 4 m. E. of Stanwick, on the high road from Higham Ferrers to Kimbolton. It stands pleasantly among trees. The tower and spire are E. Eng., as was the original fabric of nave and aisles and chancel. The S. door has very rich mouldings, retaining a Norman character. The E. Eng. clerestory of the nave is of quatrefoils. Within, the church has nothing very noticeable. It has been carefully restored (1868), and in rebuilding an E. Eng. wall (not much later than 1200) a slab of Weldon stone was found, on which was roughly scratched a diagram such as is still used for playing the game called in Northamptonshire "Peg Meryll." This is the "Nine Men's Morris" of Shakespeare :—

> "The crows are fatted on the murrain flock,
> The nine men's morris is filled up with mud;
> And the quaint mazes on the wanton green
> For lack of tread are undistinguishable."
> *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act ii., sc. 2.

It is still played in many parts of England, especially in the northern and eastern counties; and is known by various names, "Blind Men's Morris," "Morels," "Marls," "Mill" (Devon). What the true form of the word is is uncertain, and its origin is unknown. (An old French form is Merelle.) The game, however, is very ancient, as the finding of this stone at Hargrave, and another resembling it at Sempringham in Lincolnshire, sufficiently proves. It is a sort of draughts, and is played generally in the field or on turf, where the diagram can be cut on the ground. Pegs or small stones are used for men. (See a very interesting paper on the discovery of the Hargrave stone by the rector, Rev. R. S. Baker, in the 11th vol. of 'Reports of the Associated Archit. Societies.' The stone is now in the Northampton Museum.]

Soon after leaving the Raunds stat., the rly. enters *Huntingdonshire*. For *Kimbolton*, which is the station beyond Raunds, see Handbook for that county.

SECTION II.

RUTLAND.

ROUTES.

*** The names of places are printed in *Italics* only in those routes where the *places* are described.

ROUTE	PAGE
1 Stamford to Melton Mowbray (*rail*). (*Ketton, Normanton, Oakham, Langham*)	215
2 Manton to Rockingham by *Uppingham* (*road*). (*Lyddington, Stoke Dry*)	222
3 Oakham to *Clipsham* (*road*). (*Burley-on-the-hill, Cottesmore, Greetham*	228
4 Stamford to Stretton (*road*). (*Tickencote, Empingham, Exton*)	231
5 Stamford to *Essendine* (*rail*). (*Ryhall*)	236

ROUTE 1.

STAMFORD TO MELTON MOWBRAY.

Midland Railway.

A branch of the Midland Rly. runs from Peterborough through Stamford to Oakham, Melton, and Leicester. This line, after leaving Stamford, makes a bend to the south, and then, turning north, passes by Oakham, and so into Leicestershire. It thus traverses the whole of Rutland. (For what is known of the early history of Rutland, see *Introduction.*)

The trains leave Stamford from *St. Martin's Stat.* The first station reached is Ketton. 1 m. from Stamford the village of *Tinwell* is passed. rt. The church, which has E. Eng. and Dec. portions, has a saddleback tower. In the long chancel is the memorial of one Herman Rainer, "Origine Tanger" (a native of Tangier, or born there?) "qui novit multa et multis impertiit," died 1668. Tinwell, however, is hardly worth a visit. The archæologist must make a point of seeing

4 m. *Ketton* Church (*Stat.*) The whole building is fine and interesting, ranging from Trans.-Norm. through E. Eng. to first Decorated. The tower (central) and spire are to be specially noted. The interior, with its lofty and wide arches, its high tower piers, and the long chancel beyond, is very striking. The earliest portion is the W. front. Then follows the chancel (E. Eng.) The tower is a little later, but still E. Eng., and the nave arcade is early Dec. Taking the *outside* first, the W. *front* has a round-headed central portal, with a blind pointed arch on either side. All have the zigzag, and the outer moulding of the central arch has the dog-tooth laid at intervals into the hollow. The whole is a good example of Transition, though the E. Eng. must have been fully developed when it was built. The

chancel is plain but excellent E. Eng. with very good buttresses. The noble E. Eng. *tower* has three belfry lights on each front; an outer pointed arch, enclosing two smaller. There is much dog-tooth. The broach spire (of later date) rises from a cornice. The spire itself itself has much variety, with canopied spire lights, and small niches for figures; and the whole composition is singularly rich and pleasing. The plain Latin crosses above the spire lights are noticeable. A gable mark on the N. side of the tower indicates the former existence of a transept. The *nave* has a remarkable cornice, with the ball-flower and other devices, under the battlement. *Within*, observe the lofty arches of the nave, with high round piers, the caps. of which are hollowed, with nail-head in the mouldings. The great tower arches have also the nail-head, and there are remains of a good flowing pattern in red, on the E. side of the E. arch. The door above the W. arch (with gable mark above it) seems to have been an arrangement belonging to an earlier arcade. The chancel windows are long lancets. There are early Dec. windows on the N. side of nave; and a large Perp. insertion on the S. side. The octagonal font is Dec. The whole church (ded. to Mary the Virgin) is built of the local oolite, which becomes lichen-tinted and yellowish with age. It has been well restored. The mosaic under the tower is the work of a local artist. The only monument is a plain but good example, of A.D. 1594, for Ferdinando Caldecote.

Ketton belonged to Richard de Humet, in the reign of Stephen; and passed through several hands to the Haringtons, and from them to the Noels. Close to the famous freestone quarries, which were worked from a very early period, we look, with reason, for a fine church here; but the later work of the nave, at any rate, was not completed without some pressure from Hugh of Wells, Bp. of Lincoln (1209–1235), who granted an indulgence of 20 days to all who should, in any way, contribute to the fabric. The village is large and straggling; and a rent of 2*s.* was, until recently, paid to the sheriff "pro ocreis reginæ" (for the queen's boots), an unusual charge, which may be connected with the shoemaker's trade established at so early a period in the neighbouring county (see *Northampton*, Rte. 1).

The *Ketton stone quarries* are a little beyond the village, on the l. of the road to Tinwell. In this place they are nearly exhausted; but the same stone is quarried at Casterton, N.W. of Stamford (Rte. 4), and more freely. The Ketton stone belongs to the Inferior Oolite. "It is of that peculiar grain from which the term 'oolite' (or roe-stone, or egg-stone) is derived; and is composed entirely of small egg-shaped grains, embedded in a calcareous matrix. A polished section of the stone generally shows that each of these oval-shaped grains has a minute nucleus (either siliceous or consisting of a shell fragment) enclosed in concentric calcareous films. It is a stone very easily worked, of a good cream colour, and very durable, hardening under atmospheric exposure."—*S. Sharpe.*

Hitherto the railway has passed through the valley of the Welland, and has crossed and re-crossed the river. At Ketton it bends away into central Rutland. The country, with low hills and little wood, is not very attractive; and there is nothing which calls for notice, until we reach

Luffenham Stat., where the rly. from Rugby to Stamford (see *Northamptonshire*, Rte. 13) joins the line of the present Rte. The village of *South* Luffenham lies 1 m. S. of the station. *North* Luffenham is

about the same distance N. Both have small ancient churches, but of no great interest. [2½ m. N. W. is the village of *Edith Weston*, where was a small alien priory attached to the Benedictine house of St. George at Banquerville in Normandy. It afterwards passed to the Carthusians of Coventry. The church has a good Dec. spire. The chancel arch is Trans.-Norm., and should be compared with the work of the hall at Oakham. The place is named from Eadgyth or Edith, wife of the Confessor and sister of Harold, who, as we learn from the Domesday Survey, had much property in this part of England. 1 m. N. the park of *Normanton* (Lord Aveland) is entered, well wooded, and stretching along a range of higher ground. Normanton has been for some generations in the hands of the Heathcotes, and the then baronet was created Baron Aveland in 1856. He had been for 36 years a Member of Parliament. The house is entirely modern, and dates, for the most part, from the beginning of the present century. There are a few pictures, but of no great importance. A stream, which flows through the park, joins the River Gwash at its northern extremity. The rare *Gentiana autumnalis* occurs here.]

From Luffenham the railway passes to the next station at Manton, leaving on the l., very near the line, the little churches of *Pilton* and of *Wing*, neither of interest. (1 m. N. of Pilton stat. is the village of Lyndon. In the wall of the church is inserted a head-stone for William Whiston, the "theologian" and man of science, who died at Lyndon Hall in 1752, aged 84. His daughter had married a Mr. Baker, owner of the hall.) At

Manton Stat. an omnibus for Uppingham (3 m., see Rte. 2) attends some of the trains. [The Midland Rly. has a new line in course (1878) of construction from Manton to Rushton, in Northamptonshire. It passes by a tunnel about 2 m. long, from Gretton towards Corby, and crosses the Welland at Haringworth by a very lofty viaduct of 22 arches.] The little church of Manton lies near the station, rt.; and that of Martinsthorpe about 1 m. l. The country has little interest, and there is nothing which calls for notice, until we reach

Oakham Stat; the principal town of Rutland. (*Inns:* the *Crown*, old and tolerably good; the *White Lion*.) The population of Oakham in 1871 was 2911. The town is large and straggling, with the church and castle near its northern end. These and a mediæval house in the principal street are the sole objects of interest in Oakham; but church, castle, and house will repay careful attention. The town is by no means a place of bustle or of movement. Quarter Sessions are held in the Castle hall; but the by-streets are grass-grown, and the old importance of Oakham has departed. (*The stranger should ask at his inn for the persons who keep the keys of ch. and castle.*)

The **Church* of All Saints, with its noble tower and spire, at once attracts attention. It was reopened in 1858, after a restoration under *Sir G. G. Scott*. The church consists of W. tower, nave with N. and S. aisles, transept with double aisles, and chancel with N. and S. aisles, nearly of equal breadth. The building, as we now see it, is (in the words of Sir G. G. Scott's report) "the work of several different periods, from the end of the 12th to the beginning of the 16th cents. Its earliest feature is the inner doorway of the porch, which is of the end of the 12th cent. The next in date are the interior of the porch itself, and the lower parts of the S. wall, with a blank recess or window on the E. side of the S. transept. These are of the first half of the 13th cent.

Then come the corresponding parts of the N. aisle, with the single pillars in both transepts. The chancel arch and some minor portions are of the beginning of the 14th cent." (The nave arcade is Geometrical Decorated, circ. 1320.) "The tower, with perhaps the pillars and arches of the same, and some other portions, are of the latter part of the same century; while the chancel, and the clerestory, and probably the N. chancel aisle, are of the 15th, and the S. chancel aisle of the 16th cent. Various, however, as are the dates of these different portions of the church, they unite in forming a symmetrical and harmonious whole, having generally the aspect of a church of the 15th cent." *Outside* the church, remark the fine composition of the W. front of the tower, in which the portal is united with the great window above. Over the window are 3 niches, retaining the figures of Our Lord and two saints. The narrow stages of the tower are marked by set-offs running across the whole front. The corbel tables throughout are curious, with grotesque figures. The buttresses are excellent; and a striking feature is the late Dec. battlement of the S. porch, with its beautiful central ornament—a crucifix within rich floriation. *Inside* the church, the main arcade should be noticed. Its capitals are much enriched with grotesques, animals, leafage, the emblems of the Evangelists, and angel heads with wings. The E. window of the chancel is modern, and of geometrical character. The roofs of chancel and S. aisle are new. That of the N. chancel aisle (oak panelled) is ancient. The font is a round bowl, with an interlacing arcade, but placed on a base of later date and character. The modern stained glass windows are (N. chancel) by *Clayton and Bell*, and (the E. window) *Hardman*. In the N. chancel aisle is a flat altar-tomb, with quatrefoils in sunk square panels; and in each quatrefoil the figure of a bell. There is no inscription; and the tomb has not been appropriated. The church belonged to the abbey of Westminster from (at least) the beginning of the reign of Hen. III. until the dissolution of the abbey. Various benefactors, however, may have assisted in the building of its different parts; and the spire is said to have been erected by one of the Flores, a family once of great importance in Oakham.

From the church the visitor may proceed at once to the *Castle*, which adjoins the churchyard on the east. The dykes and fosses of two great courts are conspicuous; but all masonry has disappeared, with the exception of a remarkable *hall* of the late Norman (Transitional) period, and some fragments of wall surrounding the inner court. No other example of such an isolated Norman hall remains in this country, although many (but of earlier date) occur in great keep towers, as at Rochester, Richmond, Hedingham, Newcastle, and elsewhere.

There is no record of a castle at Oakham until the reign of Hen. II., when the manor was granted to Walcheline de Ferrars, who became Baron of Oakham. The foundation of the castle is generally assigned to him, and the peculiar custom of the manor, by which a horseshoe is claimed from every baron who passes for the first time through the lordship, has been thought to indicate an early connection with the house of Ferrars, the shield of which was "semée of horseshoes." But Oakham was only connected with the Ferrars during the lives of Walcheline and of his son Hugh. Castle and manor afterwards passed through various hands. Hen. III. in 1251 gave them to his brother Richard of Cornwall. Edward II. granted them to Edmund of Woodstock. The De Bohun Earls of Northampton held the

castle for some time; and the well-known Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, the favourite of Richard II., obtained manor and castle for his life. They were bestowed by Hen. VIII. on Cromwell, Earl of Essex. They passed afterwards to Charles, 2nd Duke of Buckingham; and so to the Earl of Nottingham, ancestor of the Earls of Winchelsea, the present possessors.

The castle of Oakham was the principal, if not the only fortress in the county of Rutland. Whether the earthworks of the inner court (in which stands the hall) are those of an earlier stronghold, British or Roman, is not perhaps certain; but no early remains have been found here, and no ancient road passed in this direction. At present, the ground-plan shows an outer court toward the north, a long parallelogram, surrounded by a deep trench (there are at present no traces of a wall), which is broader on the side between this and the inner court. This inner court is of less size, and of irregular shape, somewhat circular. The court of it is sunk within the enclosing mound and wall. The mound becomes higher toward the S.E. angle, as if for the foundation of a tower. The hall stands alone toward the S. side of the court, is built E. and W., and is of the latter part of the 12th cent., showing distinct transition from Norm. to E. Eng. "It measures 65 ft. by 43 ft., and is divided by two rows of pillars and arches, thus cutting off two aisles which are leantos. The arches rise from circular pillars (3 on either side), with highly enriched caps. There are no responds, the arches at the ends springing from corbels. The principal entrance was originally at the E. end of the S. side, and there are also 2 low segmental-headed doors at the E. end, and another door at the N.W., which have all communicated with the offices, as may be seen by the foundations yet remaining." *T. Hudson Turner*, 'Dom. Archt.' There are 4 windows N. and S., and one in the E. end gable. These are all varied in detail, externally double lancets, and internally round-headed; but the openings for light are square, the upper part of the lancet being left solid, and set with ornament. The angles of the jambs are filled in with dog-tooth. The principal doorway is of similar character, with banded shafts and dog-tooth. The pillars of the interior arcade have bases with foot ornaments and mouldings, which are very E. Eng. The capitals are rich and Corinthian, much varied. "Their whole character is very similar to those at Canterbury and Oxford cathedrals; but more so to some foreign examples, as at Soissons and Blois." On the caps., at the springing of the arches, are human figures and animals, playing on musical instruments. In the aisles are human heads. The corbels carrying the outer arches are very fine, and unusual in design. "The one nearest the entrance door at the E. end appears to be what is heraldically called a 'cat-a-mountain,' and is supported by the heads of a king and queen, evidently those of Hen. II. and his queen, Eleanor of Guienne." All these corbels are noticeable. The roof was partly erected by Charles, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, and is partly modern. The spring stones of the gables on the N. side are supported by 2 heads, and on the crests are large figures; that E. being a figure in a long surcoat, mounted on an animal; that W. being a much shattered sagittary.

On the walls of this remarkable hall are disposed more than 100 horseshoes, evidences of the ancient "custom" of the manor, which has been already mentioned. They are of various sizes and forms, some being gilt and surmounted by a coronet. The earliest now here (ex-

cept Q. Elizabeth) dates from 1694, and was contributed by Baptist, E. of Gainsborough. 5 Earls and Marquises of Exeter also are represented; and at one end of the hall are the gilt and crowned horseshoes of Q. Elizabeth, of "George, Prince Regent," of Queen Victoria, and of the Duke of Rutland. The custom undoubtedly represents some early privilege, probably a grant of "toll" on every horse passing through the town (as was the case at Dover); but the origin cannot be traced with certainty. The county assize is held in the hall.

The area of the court in which the hall stands is covered with foundations, and there is a well in it. There are some large ash-trees; but the scene and site are more interesting to the antiquary than to the artist. (For all that is known of the early history of Oakham castle and hall, see a paper by the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne, in the 'Archæological Journal,' vol. v.)

In the principal street, on the same side as the Crown Inn, is an ancient house which should be seen. It is known as *Flore's House*. The house was originally E. Eng. of the 13th cent., but was greatly altered in the 15th. In the original plan a hall occupied the centre, with a wing at each end projecting backward, but in front in a line with the hall. The principal doorway, good E. Eng., remains: and in the passage, which seems to have led straight through to the back of the house, is a drain, projecting from the wall, and ornamented. "The slab is sunk on all four sides to the centre, where there is a human head in relief, and under it 4 holes for carrying off the water." At the point of the arch is a staple for suspending something (a chained dish or a towel). Such drains were probably designed for the washing of the guests' hands before they entered the hall. Other examples occur. The eastern wing of the house now projects much in front, and in it is a square double window of the 15th cent. Roger Flore, to whom the house is assigned by local tradition, died about 1483; and may have altered the older building. He was a merchant, and a great benefactor to Oakham.

In the market-place is the *Buttercross*, raised on 6 wooden posts. The town stocks are slowly mouldering under the roof. Near the cross is the newly-built *Grammar School*, with a good master's house. This school, like that at Uppingham (see Rte. 2), was founded in the reign of Elizabeth by Robert Johnson, Archdeacon of Leicester and vicar of N. Luffenham. The arrangements were at first the same as at Uppingham (see Rte. 2); and the modern system is the same in both schools, but under a new scheme, and with due application of the now very large funds. Oakham Grammar School has exhibitions to the annual value of 1000*l*. The old school-house (built in Charles I.'s time) is in the churchyard, and has on one side the inscription, "Schola Latina, Græca, Hebraica;" with texts in the three languages. On the outskirts of the town is the *Hospital of St. John*, founded about 1390, by William Dalby, a merchant of Exton. The small chapel is of this date, with Perp. windows.

The only celebrity of Oakham is Jeffry Hudson, dwarf of the Queen Henrietta Maria. He figures in Scott's 'Peveril of the Peak,' and is called by Fuller ('Worthies') "the least man of the least county in England." He was born in the parish, where "his father was a very proper man, broad-shouldered and chested, though his son never arrived at a full ell in stature." His father "presented him at Burley-on-the-Hill to the Duchess of Buckingham, being then nine years of age, and scarce a foot and a half in height, as I am informed" (continues Fuller) "by

credible persons then and there present and still alive. Instantly Jeffry was heightened (not in stature but in condition) from one degree above rags into silk and satin, and two tall men to attend him." He afterwards made his first appearance at court "in a cold baked pie," went with the Queen to France in 1644, shot Mr. Crofts in a duel, returned at the Restoration, was imprisoned on suspicion of being concerned in the Popish plot, and died 1682. He appears in attendance on the Queen in a picture by Vandyke, belonging to the Earl of Portarlington.

Oakham is a good centre from which to visit Burley, Cottesmore, and the churches in that direction (They are described in Rte. 3.) Exton (Rte. 4) is perhaps better reached from Stamford, but may be included in a day's round from Oakham. The little churches of *Egleton* and *Hambleton*, S.W. of Oakham, are of no great interest; but *Langham*, 2 m. N.E., on the road to Melton Mowbray, should be visited.

[The road passes through what is known as the *Vale of Catmose*, although travellers accustomed to a more hilly region will hardly recognise the valley. For the etymology of the name Camden suggests "*Coet maes*" (Brit.), a "woody plain;" but this explanation is at least doubtful. This is the best and richest part of Rutland.

> "Bring forth that British vale, and be it ne'er so rare,
> But Catmus with that vale for richness may compare,"

are the words of Drayton ('Polyolbion'); and the land maintains its old reputation. The country is hardly picturesque. At 1 m. the road passes through the village of *Barleythorpe*, where are the kennels of the Cottesmore Hunt, removed here from Cottesmore in 1870, and arranged for 80 couples of hounds. This country, it must be remembered, represents the "happiest" hunting-ground in England. The Leicestershire border is close at hand, and Melton Mowbray at no great distance. The large Elizabethan house at Barleythorpe belongs to the Earl of Lonsdale, and was built in 1848.

Another mile brings us to *Langham*, a straggling village of the Northamptonshire type, with a very fine church, *restored*, the nave under *Bodley and Garner*, the chancel by *Christian*. The plan shows a broad nave and aisles, which end at the chancel arch, a S. transeptal chapel, a deep chancel, of the same width as the nave, and a W. tower. There was a N. transept, pulled down in the last cent. Like Oakham, this church at Langham shows the work of different periods, but in the same way the chief impression is that of a 15th-cent. building, and there is so much general resemblance that it is hardly possible to doubt that the same designers were at work on both churches. The earliest portions are E. Eng. An E. Eng. lancet remains on the N. side of the chancel, though the other windows are Perp. insertions. The chancel roof is modern. The main arcade dates from the second half of the 13th cent., and resembles the piers of the transepts at Oakham. There are well-sculptured heads at the terminations of the arch mouldings. The clerestory is somewhat later. The E. and W. windows of the N. aisle are good curvilinear and on the N. side of the E. window is a curious bracket, displaying a figure crouching with elbows on knees, holding the mouth open with the hands and projecting the tongue. In the S. aisle the windows are all Perp., as is the font. The S. transept, originally E. Eng., has been much altered in Perp. times. In the S. wall is an E. Eng. trefoil-headed piscina, and there is a large Perp. window S. of it. On the floor in the eastern aisle of the transept is a

curious incised slab for John Dickenson, d. 1535, and wife. He wears a merchant's gown with furred collar and sleeves; a long, stocking-shaped purse is fastened round the lady's waist, and hangs low in front. The open nave roof (Perp.) is old and good. The modern seats are plain, but well arranged, and the whole effect of the interior is excellent. *Outside* the church, remark the E. Eng. tower, with a spire of later date. The very fine belfry windows are enriched with dog-tooth. Under the parapet of the clerestory are good Perp. gurgoyles, and, generally, the parapets with their corbel tables are Perp. The great Perp. window of the S. transept has a cornice with curious figures in the gable, which rises at the point into a crucifix, as at Oakham, but here the figure is gone.

There is a belief, not apparently founded on existing evidence, that the church was rebuilt by Simon of Langham, Archbp. of Canterbury (A.D. 1366–1368). It is said that he was born here, and that, following the example of many prelates of his day, he "rebuilt" the church of his birthplace. This can only mean that he made the Perpendicular changes in the church, and perhaps founded a chantry for himself and parents in the S. transept. The insertion of the large Perp. window there looks as if it were designed to light some special altar or relic shrine. Langham had been Bishop of Ely, Treasurer of England, and Lord Chancellor, before his elevation to the Primacy.]

Returning to Oakham, we proceed on our course by the rly. Leaving Burley-on-the-hill (see Rte. 3) on the rt., and skirting for a short time the Melton and Oakham canal, we reach

Ashwell Stat. Rt. is seen the *Ch.*, which has been restored. It has Dec. and Perp. portions, and the E. window is Dec. curvilinear. Three monuments deserve attention. One, of wood, is the cross-legged effigy of an unknown knight, temp. Hen. III., another is the effigy of a priest in eucharistic vestments. The third has the figures of John Vernam, circ. 1479, and Rose his wife. The next *stat.* is *Whissendine*, the village of which name lies 1½ m. S., in a country more broken and varied than that through which the rly. passes, and commanding wide views over Leicestershire. The Leicestershire border is speedily crossed; and passing a *stat.* at *Saxby*, the train reaches

Melton Mowbray stat. (See *Handbook for Leicestershire.*)

ROUTE 2.

MANTON TO ROCKINGHAM, BY UPPINGHAM (*Road.* LIDDINGTON, STOKE DRY.

[A branch line of the Midland Rly. is (1878) in course of construction from Manton to Rushton, in Northamptonshire, where it will join the main line of the Midland.]

An omnibus runs twice daily from Manton to Uppingham, 3½ m. (Uppingham is also reached from the Seaton Stat. on the line from Rugby to Stamford, 3 m. An omnibus runs from Uppingham, and meets certain trains at Seaton.)

The drive from Manton to Uppingham takes us through a country of no great interest, rising into long ridges, but not picturesque. Wide views are occasionally commanded to the N.W., over part of Northamp-

tonshire. These long ridges running E. and W. are perhaps the most marked features of Rutland, and render the construction of a rly. from N. to S. somewhat difficult. The peculiar red soil of the district round Manton may, it has been said, have suggested the name of Rut- (*rud*, A.S. red) land. But this is altogether uncertain, and the red soil covers no great extent of country. The road crosses the little stream of the Chater, and at 1½ m. from Manton passes the village of

Preston, where the ch. stands high, and is a good landmark. It has a massive tower and spire. The tower buttresses are set on at the angles. The Dec. spire is of varied stone—the lower part dark, the centre light with a single dark band, the top darker. There are good spire lights. Within, the main arcade is Norm. on the N. side, with round piers and arches. On the S. it is E. Eng., though the arches are still round-headed, and the caps. plain and hollowed. The chancel retains traces of Norm. windows, but was much altered in E. Eng. and Dec. times. A canopied niche, on the S. side below the plain sedile, may perhaps have served as an Easter sepulchre. The aisles are carried E. of the chancel arch, and round-headed arches with nail-head ornament open to them from the chancel, N. and S. The font is E. Eng. The ch. has been restored, and the walls are scraped and bare after the bad modern fashion; but it is an interesting building, well cared for. There is some modern stained glass.

[In *Ridlington Ch.* (1¼ m. W.) is a 16th-cent. monument for Sir John Harington and his wife. In the church-yard of *Ayston*, which lies off the road to the rt. 1 m. beyond Preston, there are two shattered effigies in the church-yard, so much defaced that it is difficult to assign a date to them.]

Leaving the tower of Ayston rt., we reach, 1 m. beyond, the town of Uppingham. The road from Preston is pleasantly wooded in the hollows.

Uppingham (*Inn:* the Falcon, fairly good; Pop. in 1871, 2464), although nominally a place of less importance than Oakham, has far more life, owing to the Grammar School, which has been raised from inferiority to a state of great excellence by the present head-master, the Rev. E. Thring. The town consists of one long street, with a market-place opening from it, at one side of which is the ch. The marked features of Uppingham, however, are the modern school-buildings, designed by *G. E. Street*, toward the centre of the town; and the many school-houses (11 or 12) for the reception of boarders. These are on the outskirts of the town, and are sufficiently conspicuous. The large building at the W. end of Uppingham is appropriated to the Lower School, for boys under 13.

Uppingham does not appear in Domesday, and the place is briefly and disparagingly mentioned by Leland and Camden. It seems to have been famous for trencher-making, since an "Uppingham trencher" is a saying still known in the county. The foundation of such prosperity as the place now enjoys was laid by the foundation of the Free or Grammar School, in 1584, by Robert Johnson, Archdeacon of Leicester, who also founded the school at Oakham. (See Rte. 1.) The original plan was liberal, and provided for the sending of scholars to the Universities. Much land was attached to these schools, and the income thence derived is now considerable. Uppingham School is now under the direction of trustees; and, under the present head-master, the Rev. E. Thring, it has attained very considerable distinction. The staff

consists of head-master, usher, master of the lower school, and 22 assistant masters (15 of whom are graduates of Oxford or Cambridge). The two schools (upper and lower) contain at present (1878) about 400 boys. These are distributed in the various school-houses, each under the superintendence of a master. Each boy has a separate small study, and the long airy dormitories are divided into cubicles. Three exhibitions, of the value respectively of 60*l.*, 50*l.*, and 40*l.*, are open every year, "tenable at some University, or other place of learned, scientific, or professional education." There are also 16 exhibitions at Cambridge (St. John's, Clare, Emmanuel, and Sidney Sussex—4 at each college) of about 30*l.* each, "to which scholars from Uppingham and Oakham have the preference." An English scholarship of 20*l.*, tenable *at the school* for 2 years, is assigned every year, after Easter; and there are also four scholarships for boys under 14, two of 50*l.* and two of 30*l.* a year, tenable *at the school* for 3 years, and assigned annually on Easter Tuesday; besides two of 53*l.*, tenable *at the school* for 2 years for boys under 17. With these advantages, with a system embracing all modern requirements, and with a most energetic direction, it is not surprising that Uppingham should have reached its present distinction.

The group of *school buildings*, designed by *G. E. Street, R.A.*, and including a chapel, should be visited. They form two sides of a quadrangle, the rest of which will, it is hoped, be eventually completed. The principal schoolroom is 88 feet by 30, and is chiefly lighted by a large window on the S. side, with double shafts. Under the cornices are inscribed the names of such old pupils as have distinguished themselves at the Universities, or elsewhere. The chapel has attached to it a circular campanile with 3 bells. Within, it is very striking. The general character is 1st (Geometrical) Decorated. The E. window is filled with stained glass by *Clayton and Bell*, "First-fruits from old boys, 1870." Other windows are memorials; and under those on the N. side is a series of sunk panels in alabaster for inscriptions recording old scholars of Uppingham who have died at school or soon after leaving it. In the second bay from the E. are rich brackets, with shafts carrying figures of the Evangelists —2 on either side. At the W. end is a rose-window, with gallery below. The roof is open and good. The whole (chapel and school building) is in the local stone (Morcot and Clipsham) belonging to the same oolite as the Ketton stone. (Rte. 1.)

After the school, the only object of interest in Uppingham is the *Ch.*, which has (1877) been almost rebuilt. Leland described the old ch. as "very meane;" and the present building retains little more than the main arcade, with the tower and spire. Uppingham can now boast of a very good ch., with much enrichment of sculpture and general decoration. The arcade is early Dec., the tower late Dec., and the spire has good spire lights. Some very graceful original painting has been uncovered (and remains) on the arches of the main arcade. The principal pattern is flowing, in red, and on the soffetes are red stars. In the chancel, which is entirely modern, the carved capitals, designed from natural leafage, deserve notice. The reredos is of alabaster, set with agates. The font is carved from a large solid block of serpentine, and is grand, though a little sombre. The pulpit is a framework with carved panels of the 17th cent., and a good example of that period. It has a special interest from the fact that Jeremy Taylor may have often preached

from it. The Rectory of Uppingham was given to Taylor by Archbishop Laud, to whom he had been chaplain. He was rector here at the outbreak of the Civil War; but was so marked a champion of the King and of the Church that his living was speedily sequestrated. King Charles then made Taylor one of his chaplains, and he never returned to Uppingham.

At the E. end of the church-yard is the old schoolhouse, of precisely the same character as that at Oakham. Both date apparently from the beginning of the reign of Charles I. This at Uppingham has over the door an inscription in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth." The contrast between this humble building and Mr. Street's new "group" is sufficiently striking.

[The country W. of Uppingham was included within the bounds of the ancient forest of Leafield or Lyfield, which occupied the greater part of the hundreds of Oakham and Martinsley. Its origin is uncertain, but some parts were afforested in the reign of John. The office of chief forester was attached to the manor of Leigh, which is nearly in the centre of the old forest district, and seems to have given name to it. The southern portion (S. of Uppingham) was known as Beaumont Chase. The western boundary of the forest was almost throughout conterminous with that of the county. There are still some patches of ancient wood about Wardley and Belton, small villages W. of Uppingham (the churches are without interest), but the country is hardly attractive.

An omnibus runs daily from Uppingham to the stat. at *Seaton*, on the line of the Stamford rly. Seaton *Church*, seen in passing, has a good E. Eng. chancel, with a later tower and spire. It has been restored.

The churches of *Glaiston* (2 m. E. of Uppingham) and *Morcott* (2 m. beyond Glaiston) are of some interest. At *Glaiston* the nave arcade is Trans.-Norm., with octagonal piers and pointed arches. The tower is central, and perhaps E. Eng. The chancel, long and well developed, is almost modern, and of Dec. character. The windows of the chancel, and some of those in the aisles, are square-headed.

On the road to Glaiston is passed rt. *Bisbrooke Hall* (Hon. W. C. Evans-Freke). In the village of Glaiston is a house of some former importance, built toward the middle of the 17th cent. by one of the Sherards, Earls of Harborough. Through an up-and-down, rich, but not picturesque country, we pass to *Morcott*, a large straggling village, containing many old houses, one or two of which may be of the 17th, but most of the 18th century. The *Church* is curious. The nave, of two bays, is late Norm, with circular piers and enriched capitals, all different. The N. arcade is earlier than that on the S. side: and the pointed chancel arch, with nail-head, seems later still. The chancel, at first Norm., was nearly rebuilt in Perp. times. Under a window in the S. aisle is a broad, low tomb-recess of Dec. character, within which is a plain altar-tomb, with incised cross and inscription, "Willielm de Overtoun gist ici, Dieu de salme eyt merci. Amen." The W. tower arch is early Norm., with rudely-sculptured capitals, one of which represents twisted serpents. The W. doorway has a pointed arch, with two orders of shafts, and was altered when a Dec. window was inserted above it. There are round-headed Norm. doors in S. aisle and chancel.]

The high road from Uppingham to Rockingham (5 m.) passes over

high ground, and commands some really fine views to the S. and W. At 1¾ m. a by-road turns off rt. to *Stoke Dry*, where the church, with its Digby monuments, is worth a visit. The place is noticeable as (in Camden's words) "the ancient home of the famous and ancient family of the Digbys," who were settled here in the middle of the 15th cent. At an earlier period the manor had been held by the house of Morewood. Of the manor house nothing remains. It stood well, on high ground, looking over a much tossed, wooded country beyond the Leicestershire border, which is here close at hand, and is marked by the course of the little River Eye. The *Church* is placed on a high bank, nearly opposite the site of the manor-house, with a deep country road between. The church, originally Norman, was almost entirely rebuilt in the E. Eng. and early Dec. periods. The N. arcade is E. Eng., and the piers are graceful, with 4 attached shafts. The S. arcade is very early Dec. with the nail-head in the caps., and plain round piers. The S. arcade, later than the N., is much wider, and an arch at the E. end, now blocked, opened to an early Dec. chapel, now serving as a vestry. The stone used in the arches is of two colours, whitish and dark brown. The chancel arch is very noticeable, since it is a mixture of Dec. work and Norm. A much enriched Norm. shaft remains N. and S., covered with curious and very rude carving of men and animals. On the N. side the capital remains, and shows a winged figure holding a book and wearing what may be alb and chasuble. On either side are monsters. A lofty screen, with overhanging roodloft, crosses the chancel arch, but the tracery of the arch openings has been broken away. In the E. wall of the chancel are—N. a large aumbrie or locker, and S. a piscina blocked by a great Digby monument. This is the tomb of Kenelm Digby, Esq., died 21 April, 1590, and of Anne, his wife. The two effigies are in alabaster. He is in armour, bareheaded, and holds in one hand something (concealed) which is suspended from his neck by a large double chain. She holds a book in her clasped hands. The cushions for the heads have been gilt and painted. Round the base are figures of weepers, wearing the great ruff of the later years of Elizabeth. The eldest son, with a double chain like his father's, supports a shield with the Digby arms (a fleur de lys) and motto "Nul ove ung"—"None but one." At one end are the arms of Digby and Cope, impaled. (The whole treatment of this fine tomb precisely resembles one in the chancel of Rockingham church for Edward Watson and his wife, who was a daughter of this Kenelm Digby, see *Northants*, Rte. 11). In the S. chapel (now the vestry) is the much defaced effigy of a Digby, circ. Hen. VI. (?), with the fleur de lys on his enormous shield. There is an early Dec. window in this chapel, S. The E. window, like that of the chancel, is late Dec. On the wall are traces of painting,—King Edmund martyred by the Danes, and other subjects, much obscured. In the S. aisle of the nave is the altar-tomb of Jacquetta Digby, d. 1496. The top of the tomb is a large slab of English alabaster, with incised figure and inscriptions. She wears a close headdress, and long robe, with chain and pomander-box.

The Digbys settled at Stoke Dry early in the 15th cent., and the place long remained their chief possession. It was the home of Sir Everard Digby, famous for his share in the Gunpowder Plot, and for his death in consequence. The Digbys had maintained the "old profession," and the father of Sir Everard, "a person of great worth and learning," was the author of some curious treatises. Sir

Everard himself suffered the death of a traitor "at the W. end of St. Paul's church in London," January 30th, 1606. His wife was Mary, daughter and sole heiress of William Mulsho of Gothurst in Buckinghamshire, where their more famous son, Sir Kenelm, was born in 1603. Sir Kenelm succeeded to his father's estates, which (by virtue of an old settlement) could not be alienated as a result of Sir Everard's treason: but he had little connection with Stoke Dry beyond that of ownership.

From Stoke Dry we return to the main road, and immediately crossing it, descend on the village of *Lyddington*. The church tower rises in front, surrounded by trees, and the view is pleasant. On the heights above and beyond the Welland, here the boundary of Rutland, the villages of Gretton and Harringworth are seen, each gathered round its church.

Lyddington is worth visiting for the sake of the *Church*, and of a picturesque *Bede-house* or hospital, formed by the 3rd Lord Burghley (1st Earl of Exeter) from portions of a manor place once belonging to the bishops of Lincoln. The manor was in their hands from a period before the removal of the see from Dorchester to Lincoln, until the reign of Edw. VI., when it was resigned to the king, who granted it to Gregory Lord Cromwell. It afterwards came to the 2nd Lord Burghley. The long, scattered village of Lyddington contains some houses which may perhaps be of the 17th cent.; but the lingering of old fashions, and the good stone near at hand, make it difficult to assign a positive date to them. The bede-house groups picturesquely with the church, and an arch connected with the former opens to the ch.-yd. The fine *Church* is late Dec. (chancel) and Perp. (nave and aisles); but there is perhaps no great interval between them. The nave arches are lofty and light, carried on slender piers with attached shafts. There are heads at the intersections, worth notice, as are the corbels from which the timbers of the aisle roofs spring. The aisle windows are transomed, with 3 lights below and 3 above. The roofs are original, somewhat rough, but good. That of the nave has a battlemented cornice. The long chancel has fine Dec. (flowing) windows. The altar is not placed against the E. wall, but is surrounded by a rail, on one side of which is the date 1635. The arrangement of that period is accordingly preserved. On the chancel floor is the *brass* of a civilian and wife, temp. Edw. IV. A plate has been inserted between the children, who figure below, for a later worthy, one Edward Watson, "Justiciæ custor, arteque causidicus." Another *brass*, with a good example of the "butterfly" headdress, is for the wife of Robert Hardy, died 1486. The chancel screen remains. The font is square, with a good Jacobean cover. The W. tower is Dec., and an exterior addition (Perp.) has been made to the W. door.

The *Bede-house* is on the W. side of the church-yard, and an oriel and 3 windows of early Perp. character, and very good, look into the yard. These are the windows of the hall. The chapel projects at a rt. angle with the hall, on the W. The hall chimney is carried up in the middle, and a gable on either side has a window. Below (E.), a lean-to extends, into which the doors of the under rooms open. One of these has a large fireplace. The whole seems of one date, and is in fact the larger portion of a manor-house, built by a bishop of Lincoln toward the end of the 14th cent. The hall was, however, ceiled and decorated, apparently by Bp. Longlands (1521–1547). The ceiling is in flat panels, with a cornice of open carved work resembling fan-tracery, unusual and striking. In the windows are fragments

of stained glass, with the red rose crowned, small quarrels with roses and leaves, and the mottoes "Dñs exaltacio mea" — "Delectare in Dño." In the hall is a Common Prayer-book containing a MS. prayer for the hospital, for the "good Lord Burghley," his family, and descendants. The Bible which accompanies it has the following entry—"In the year 1816, there was a great snow for five hours on the 12th of May, and haile all the remaines of the day. Witness, John Robert, Warden." The establishment is for a warden, 12 poor men, and 2 women.

The ancient manor-house and its demesne were surrounded by a wall which enclosed a considerable space, including in the line what is now a barn, with massive buttresses. In the field E. of the church-yard are mounds and ridges, indicating fish-ponds, and a formal "plaisance."

We return from Lyddington to the high road; but, with the exception of wide prospects over Leicestershire on the rt. and Northamptonshire on the l., there is nothing which calls for notice until we reach (4 m. from Uppingham) *Caldecot*, where the church, otherwise uninteresting, contains a curious E. Eng. font, square, with chamfered edges, and unusual ornament. At this junction of the little River Eye with the Welland, meet the counties of Leicestershire and Northants. Rockingham station is passed; and the road ascends to the castle and village (see *Northants*, Rte. 11.)

ROUTE 3.

OAKHAM TO CLIPSHAM (ROAD).—BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL; COTTESMORE; GREETHAM.

The distance from Oakham to Clipsham is 9½ m. The drive is for the most part over high ground, and after climbing Burley Hill wide views are commanded over parts of Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. The country is much broken; but it is true that no one should be sent into Rutland in search of the picturesque. Parts of the county, and especially this N.E. division, belong to the great hunter's paradise, of which Melton Mowbray is the capital. Much of the ground hunted by the Quorn is seen from the high ground above Burley.

The road gradually ascends from Oakham, and as we approach Burley the view looking S. and S.W. is really fine—no doubt the finest in Rutland. The woods of Burley are deep and rich, and the tower of Oakham church rises well in the middle distance.

Burley-on-the-Hill (G. H. Finch, Esq.) is one of the most important houses in the county, and is certainly the most conspicuous. Its long, many-windowed front is seen far and wide, and in such a district of low elevations this place well deserves its distinctive name. Burley passed through a long succession of owners to the Haringtons, who sold it to James I.'s Duke of Buckingham, the famous "Steenie." He raised a great mansion here, "inferior to few for the house," says Fuller (*Worthies*), "superior to all for the stable, where horses (if their *pabulum* so plenty as their *stabulum* stately) were the best accommodated in England. . . . . But this Burley was since demolished in our civil

war." A small garrison had been placed in the house by the Parliamentarian army, which at last, fearing an attack from the Royalists, and knowing themselves too weak for resistance, set fire to the house and abandoned it. The stable alone remained. The house was a ruin when it was sold by Charles II.'s Duke to Daniel Finch, Earl of Nottingham. He rebuilt Burley in its present form. The family of Finch afterwards inherited the older title of Winchelsea; and although Burley has passed from the head of the house, it remains in possession of the same race. The park covers more than 1000 acres, and contains some fine old trees. The house is vast, but has little to recommend it architecturally. It contains some good old tapestry, and there are a few portraits of interest; but the Winchelsea pictures and portraits are no longer here.

The *church* of Burley, which closely adjoins the house, has been well restored, and is interesting. It consists of W. tower, nave with N. and S. aisles, and chancel with aisles terminating in the same line. The nave, of 4 bays, is Trans. and E. Eng. The N. arcade, with round piers and arches, and caps. voluted, with a little leafage, is Trans.-Norm. On the S. side the piers are lighter, the caps. have the nail-head, and the arches are pointed. The square-headed clerestory is an addition. The tower arch is early Dec., and there is a small Dec. W. window. The square-headed aisle-windows are of a good Dec. type. The chancel has been much renovated, but 3 pointed arches, carried on round piers with plain caps., open to the aisle on either side. The E. window, of Dec. character, is filled with *Hardman's* glass, and serves as the memorial of George, 9th Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham. The reredos below has figures of the Saviour and six Apostles. In the S. aisle is a monument, with kneeling figure by *Chantrey*, for Lady Charlotte Finch, d. 1813; and another piece of modern sculpture, with figures of cherubs and angels, for the wife of G. H. Finch, d. 1865. On the floor, E. of the tower-arch, are the much-mutilated figures of a knight and lady, temp. Hen. VI.; the lower part of his figure is broken. On the slab is what seems to be designed for a string of beads.

There is nothing to remark, beyond the wide view l., until we reach, 2 m. beyond Burley, the village of

Cottesmore, once famous for the kennels of the Cottesmore Hunt, which have been lately removed to Barleythorpe, near Oakham (see Rte. 1). The sole point of interest at Cottesmore at present is the *church* (restored, but well), which is Dec. and Perp., with a fine W. tower and spire (the latter broached and angle-ribbed). The interior, with wide nave and chancel, is striking. The whole seems Dec., including the wide chancel-arch, but there have been some curious and puzzling changes. The first arch (from the E.) on the N. side is a little lower than the rest, and a mass of wall intervenes between it and the arch adjoining. Piers and arches, however, seem of one date; but there are indications in the masonry where the lower arcade joined the work eastward. Possibly the eastern portion represents part of an older wall, in which an attempt was made to work the Dec. arcade. On the failure of this, the rest of the arcade may have been built from the ground and higher. The tower-arch is not in the centre of the nave. At the N. side is a huge square buttress, with the lower angles chamfered off. A short arch is carried to this buttress from the last bay of the nave-arcade. The tower must therefore be earlier (though not much) than the present nave. The chancel is mainly Perp.,

but retains some earlier fragments. The font (E. Eng. ?) has a remarkable base, with the Crucifixion on one side and a bishop with pastoral staff on the other. On the exterior, note that the S. door has Norm. zigzag, and must have belonged to the earlier church. A cornice of small heads and grotesques (Dec.) runs round aisles and clerestory. The manor of Cottesmore belonged to the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick, until the reign of Elizabeth.

The road proceeds to *Greetham*, a scattered village, where the *church* is conspicuous for its noble Dec. tower and spire. The base-mouldings of the tower are especially fine. The two lower storeys are massive, and are lighted only by the W. window and small foiled openings in the second storey. There is no W. door. The buttresses are excellent. The broach-spire is angled off from the top of these buttresses, and does not overhang; a row of heads serves as a corbel-table at the base. There are 3 tiers of spire lights, and large, fine belfry windows, traceried. The whole may date from about 1320, and is an unusually good example. Within, the nave-arcade, with lofty and light arches, is Dec., and a sort of transept has been projected on the S. side. In the N. aisle are good Dec. (curvilinear) windows; and at the E. end, high in the wall, is a small shallow niche, with a base of open flowers, perhaps intended for a figure. The chancel has 2 lancets on the S. side, and on the sill of one is laid the fragment of a sepulchral stone or cross, with interlaced work. The font is E. Eng., and curious. The manor of Greetham belonged to the Beauchamps until the reign of Richard II. The church was attached to the priory of the Holy Sepulchre at Warwick.

Two miles beyond Greetham the main road from Stamford to Newark is crossed, and indifferent lanes lead us to Stretton and Clipsham. At *Stretton* (Street-town,—the name marks its position close to a line of Roman road, the Erming Street, now the main road from Stamford) is a small church in (1877) utter disrepair. The nave arcade of 2 bays has been rich E. Eng. with foliated caps.; the piers clustered, with smaller shafts, which for the most part have been broken away; the arches round, with ribbed mouldings. The chancel arch is carried on brackets, with heads and nail-head ornament. There are 2 lancets in the chancel, and a late Dec. E. window; a square aumbry in N. wall. In the S. a piscina and Easter sepulchre (?). The font is a rude, square block. The roodloft steps remain at E. end of N. arch, and close by are the piscina and bracket of an altar. A transeptal projection has been added, N. and S. The S. porch is E. Eng.

Leaving "Stretton in the street, where shrews meet"—an ancient saying which belongs to this place—we proceed through lanes for 1¼ m. to *Clipsham*, a scattered village, situated rather prettily in a broken, partly wooded country. The parish is famous for the oolitic stone which is quarried close on the border of the county, about 1 m. from the church. The stone belongs to the same beds, and is of the same character, as that quarried at Ketton (Rte. 1). Clipsham has an excellent village church, restored and reseated at great cost, and in very good order. It consists of W. tower, nave with aisles, chancel and N. chancel aisle. The tower has arches opening to the aisles N. and S. The nave arcade, of 3 bays (exclusive of the tower bay) is late Norm. on the N. side, with low round piers and overhanging cushioned capitals. The westernmost arch has an enriched outer moulding of rather unusual design. On the S. side the arcade is E. Eng., with round piers and octangular caps., on which is the nail-head. The arches are round and plainly cham-

fered. The font is Norm., a round bowl, with small lozenged ornaments. The aisle windows S. are Dec. and square-headed. In the S. wall is a remarkable piscina with projecting basin, and open tracery in the head of the arch. There are brackets with heads on either side of the E. window. The windows of the N. aisle, still Dec., differ from those opposite and have a peculiar tracery. At the E. end, an arch (early Dec.?) carried on brackets which terminate in heads (very noticeable) opens to the N. aisle of chancel. The tower arches are early Dec.; and at the W. end is a single trefoil-headed lancet. The present chancel arch is carried on a short triple shaft, with the buckle ornament at the terminations. Two broad arches divide the aisles from the chancel. There are small heads at the intersections and at the crown of each arch. The roof is modern. There is an elaborately carved modern reredos (of wood), having in the centre the Last Supper (Leonardo's), the Ascension and the Transfiguration, on either side, and beyond again the Nativity and the Repose in Egypt. The *exterior* shows a cornice with the ball-flower and other ornaments, carved above the aisle windows. Short, good buttresses rise between. The ball-flower appears again round the E. window of the S. aisle. All this work is early Dec. The tower and spire are also Dec. The broach-spire rises from the low tower with a peculiar arrangement hardly to be made intelligible without illustrations. All the spire lights have crosses.

At Clipsham we reach the N.E. boundary of Rutland, and look across toward Castle Bytham in Lincolnshire.

ROUTE 4.

STAMFORD TO STRETTON, BY ROAD (TICKENCOTE, EMPINGHAM, EXTON).

The road on which we journey by the present Rte. from Stamford, represents a portion of the ancient *Erming Street* (Earminga Stræt = the road of the fen-men, from the Norse *eorme*, bog-earth) which ran from London to Lincoln. This portion of it, at any rate, was adopted by the Romans, if it be not of Roman origin. Roman relics have been found on or near its course; and the Roman camp of Great Casterton is still conspicuous where the road, 2 m. from Stamford, crosses the little River Gwash (hence the place is sometimes called *Brig* Casterton), and, passing out of Lincolnshire, enters the county of Rutland.

Great Casterton was certainly a station of some importance, although it cannot be identified with any station of the Itineraries. The camp lay toward the river, on the N.E. of Casterton church. On two sides the stream of the Gwash (more considerable, it is likely, in early days than at present) seems to have formed the boundary. On the others a deep trench and bank are still remaining. The form is square. Some Roman coins have been found here, but in no great quantity. The *church* of Great Casterton (unrestored, 1877) is E. Eng. throughout and curious. The nave is of 2 bays only, with round piers and caps., and responds enriched with leafage. The arches are round-headed (a peculiarity in this district, where the round-headed arch was retained after the full development of E. Eng.—see Clipsham and Stretton, Rte. 3). There is a clerestory of circular lights. At the E. end of

the aisles is a lancet—the other windows are debased. At the E. end of the S. aisle are brackets on either side of the lancet, and extending from the sill of the window is a broad stone slab—the purpose of which is not clear. The well developed chancel has 2 lancets at the E. end, and a plain three-light window on the S. side. There is an E. Eng. North porch. Under a low arched recess in the wall of the S. aisle is the effigy of a priest, eucharistically vested. *Outside* the church, on the S. side of nave, is a sepulchral recess, with an effigy of which the head and feet only are sculptured—a type not very usual. It is apparently the figure of a priest, but is much worn away. The bracket of a window above displays a curious example of female headdress (temp. Hen. III.?). At the E. end of the church it is seen that the lancets have side shafts with foliaged caps. Above, in a niche, is a sculptured figure which seems to represent St. Paul (the dedication is to SS. Peter and Paul) with a sword in one hand, and some rounded object in the other. He is vested as a priest, and carries the maniple over the rt. arm. It is perhaps questionable whether this figure originally belonged to the niche. The tower is E. Eng. below, with a much later superstructure.

At 3 m. from Stanford a road turns off l. to *Tickencote*, where the remarkable Norman church must on no account be left unvisited by the archæologist. In spite of a restoration (in itself a singular work, considering the time at which it was effected), and of consequent changes, it remains one of the most striking examples of late and enriched Norman in this part of England. Tickencote ("the goats' hamlet," *tyccen* A.-S. = a goat) passed, in the reign of Henry VIII., to a junior branch of the Wingfields of Upton, near Northampton, and is still held by this family. Of its earlier owners, we know only that it was held by the Countess Judith at the time of the Domesday Survey, and by a certain Britius Daneys, in the reign of Edw. II. The church is probably of the same date as Iffley—circ. 1160. It is small, and consisted only of nave and chancel, divided by a wonderfully enriched arch. The nave had been rebuilt in some unknown period, and had (it is said) fallen much into decay, when the restoration or rebuilding was undertaken by "Eliza Wingfield," who (as we learn from an inscription above the porch), "with that true sense of religion and reverence for her Maker which ever distinguished her life, repaired this church in the year 1792. She died July 14, 1794, aged 87 years, and her remains are here deposited." This "repair" comprised a complete rebuilding of the nave, and some lesser changes which it is not easy to distinguish. The Norman chancel and arch were carefully preserved, and the new work was designed in imitation. Of this it must be said that it is so good as almost to deceive the practised archæologist. The ancient designs have been carefully copied, and, now that time has softened the modern masonry, the whole church has assumed a harmony which is very striking. As a work of the 18th cent., this rebuilding seems almost without parallel. The *chancel* (entirely ancient) is square-ended, and is 2 half-bays in length, the vaulting-ribs passing on either side to a central rib or arch. In the centre of the vaulting is a boss with 3 heads, one human, the other 2 animal. The ribs are all zigzagged, with lozenges on the soffete. There are two windows on either side, and one at the E. end, all deeply splayed, and each set in a tall round arch with plain cushioned caps., at the same level as the caps. of the windows themselves. But the glory of the interior is the great chancel-arch, receding in 5 orders,

each of which has a different and elaborate ornamentation. The peculiar leaf-like ornament of the outermost order is repeated on the exterior of the E. front, and copied in the new work. The other designs, grotesques, birds' heads, and zigzags, are more ordinary. The soffete of the arch is ribbed. Like so much Norman work, this very rich arch has sunk together, and the shafts which carry the orders are crushed and bent. The foundations were probably uncared for. The whole is of Barnack stone, and, although it displays tool-marks and perhaps traces of paint, it is impossible to say whether these may not have been left by the "restoring" masons of Mrs. Wingfield. In the chancel is the wooden effigy of an unknown knight, temp. Edw. III.

The western part of the church, including the porch, with the chamber over it (a picturesque arrangement), is entirely modern, and need only be noticed here to call attention to the unusual excellence of such work in 1792. The exterior of the chancel deserves, of course, particular attention. In a lower division, at the E. end and at the sides, is an arcade of intersecting arches. There are, in fact, 5 stages or divisions, marked by enriched string-courses, and partly recalling the flat, ribbed ornamentation of such early Romanesque churches as Earls Barton and Barnack in Northamptonshire. The upper divisions contain the E. window of the chancel, and 2 tiers of blank windows, enriched with zigzag and billet mouldings. Above the E. window is a longer and narrower light, opening to the space (in fact a room) above the vaulting; these windows are carried on bracket-heads, animal and human. The vestry, on the S. side of the chancel, is part of Mrs. Wingfield's work. All the ancient building belongs to that class of enriched Norman which prevailed toward the end of the style, and of which Iffley is one of the best known examples. It was so little understood by earlier antiquaries that King ('Munimenta Antiqua') tells us that the architecture of Tickencote "corresponds well with the age of the Archbishops Theodore and Honorius;" and Stukely suggests that it was the oratory of Peada of Mercia, founder of Peterborough Abbey.

W. of the church is *Tickencote Hall* (J. H. Lee Wingfield, Esq.).

[It is possible to proceed by cross-roads from Tickencote to *Empingham* (2½ m.). The village stands pleasantly in the valley of the Gwash, in the midst of fine trees. The *church* well deserves attention. It has W. tower, nave, and aisles, short transepts, and chancel. It is E. Eng., but altered in parts in the Perp. period. The nave is of 4 bays, with round piers and round-headed arches S., and pointed arches N. Both are E. Eng. (compare the round-headed arches at Great Casterton). The transepts project one bay. In the N. transept are Perp. windows with remains of stained glass. There have been 2 altars, one under the E. window of the transept, the other under the window at the end of the aisle, The piscina of each remains. The S. transept has E. Eng. lancets and a piscina in the E. wall, which has been gracefully foiled. The windows in the chancel are E. Eng. There is a range of 3 sedilia, with round-headed arches, and a double piscina with trefoiled heading. The western tower is Early Dec., but following very closely on the E. Eng. of the nave. The W. door is fine: its pointed arch is enclosed by a larger one. The shafts of the outer arch are ringed, the inner has the ball-flower. The tower, well buttressed, is of 4 storeys. In the third is panelling, with foiled headings; in the fourth are the belfry-lights. Massive pinnacles rise direct from the sides

of the tower. There is a short spire, with crocketed ribs and good spire-lights.

The manor of Empingham belonged to the family of Normanville until the reign of Hen. III., when it passed by marriage to Edmund de Passely. The church was from a very early period, and still is, attached to Lincoln Cathedral, and is the "prebend" of Empingham.

At *Whitwell*, 2 m. E. of Empingham, is a small early Dec. church which the tourist need hardly turn from his road to visit. There is a good double-gabled bell-turret at the W. end. In the S. wall of the chancel is a low side window, in the quatrefoil of which a fragment of old glass, with the Crucifixion, remains.

Normanton woods are seen l. in proceeding from Empingham to Whitwell.]

The tourist may pass by a cross-road from Whitwell to the village of *Exton* (2 m.), or he may return to Tickencote, and pass into the park of Exton from the main road, about 5½ m. from Stamford. In either case the approach to the wooded park is pleasant, after the more open and comparatively bare country. This part of Rutland, however, is not flat. The ground is much varied, and the villages, generally in the hollows, are well surrounded by trees. The land is rich, and shows a high condition of agriculture.

Exton Park (Earl of Gainsborough) closely adjoins the village, and the church (*the key of which must be asked for in the village*) is in the park, at no great distance from the house. Exton (in Domesday, Exentune) belonged at the time of the Survey to the Countess Judith, and passed with her daughter and heiress, Maud, to David of Scotland, Earl of Huntingdon. It afterwards came to the Bruces, and at last to the Haringtons, who held it for nearly six centuries. They sold it to Sir Baptist Hicks; and with his heiress it came to the Noels, the head of which family is the Earl of Gainsborough. The *old hall* of Exton, close to the church, was Elizabethan, and was almost destroyed by fire in 1810. The actual hall, and some other portions remain, but not in habitable condition. The front has an open balustrade between gables, and some good transomed windows. Within, there is nothing of interest. The *modern house*, which stands on lower ground somewhat farther to the N., is Elizabethan in character, and picturesque, with tourelles, and a R. C. chapel with apse, projecting eastward. Much of the old house was pulled down for the stonework of this chapel, which is important, and of some size. The house contains some portraits and pictures, but of no great interest. The park, which is well-wooded, and contains a large sheet of water, is said to be 8 miles in circuit.

Exton *Church*, with a fine tower and spire, is interesting in itself, and also for the elaborate display of Harington and Noel monuments. It consists of W. tower, nave with aisles, and chancel. The eastern bays of the aisles are transeptal, and are divided by arches from the aisles, as at Empingham. The arcade is Dec. on the S. side, and somewhat earlier—perhaps it should be called E. Eng.—on the N. The arches on either side are lofty, and the leafage on the S. side has the natural character of the Dec. period. The chancel was "struck by a fire ball," and has been rebuilt, with a Dec. E. window. The roofs are new; and in the nave, between the line of clerestory lights, are hung a long series of Noel banners and achievements. The general effect is not amiss; but, together with the numerous monuments, the display gives the church something of the character of a family mausoleum. The font, early Dec., is octagonal,

with an arcade ornamenting the side, and heads at the angles.

The monuments were re-arranged after the destruction of the old chancel, and are not at present in their original positions. The earliest is an altar-tomb, of alabaster with floriated cross, on the N. side of the altar. The inscription runs—"Vous qe par icy passez—pur lalme Nichol Greve prie—son corps gist de south ceste pere—par la mort qe taunt est fere—en la cynkanntisme an mort luy prest—mercy luy fate Jesu Crist. Amen." There is no date, but the tomb may be about 1450. Under the tower is the tomb, with effigies in alabaster, of John Haring-ton and Alice his wife, dating early in the 16th cent. Here is also a graceful recumbent figure (asleep) of Anne, wife of Thos. Bruce, Lord Kinloss, d. 1627, aged 22. At the S. end of the S. transept is the fine Elizabethan monument of Robert Keylway, a lawyer, who was father of Anne, Lady Harington. He lies on his back, robed, and in front kneel his daughter and her husband, John, Lord Harington. At the side is a small figure, in gown and cap, of a child who died young. In the N. transept is a grand and pompous monument, by *Grinling Gibbons*, for Baptist Noel, Viscount Campden, who died in 1683, aged 71. This Lord Campden was eminent for his loyalty to Charles I., his conjugal affection to 4 wives, and his paternal indulgence to 19 children. Two full-length figures appear at an altar, and there are many bas-reliefs of virtues. The whole was raised, at a cost of 1000*l.*, by John, third son of the Viscount, and is an excellent example of the period. Opposite is the monument of his fifth son James, d. 1681, aged 18, "free from the age's grand debaucherys." He ap-pears in wig and flowing cravat. At the end of the N. aisle is a mural monument, by *Nollekens*, for Lieut.-Gen. Benett Noel, d. 1766; a figure leaning on an urn, on which is a bust of Gen. Noel. In the chancel is a monument, by *Nollekens*, for Bap-tist Noel, 4th Earl of Gainsborough; and opposite, in a recess, the Jaco-bæan monument of Sir James Haring-ton and his wife Lucy, who both died in the year 1591.

The rectory of Exton was given by the Bruces to the Cluniac priory of St. Andrew in Northampton, to which it belonged until the Disso-lution.

In proceeding from Tickencote along the line of ancient road (the Erming Street), now known as Horne Lane, we come, at 5 m. from Stam-ford, to a place called "*Bloody Oaks.*" This was the scene (March 13th, 1470) of the fight known as that of "Loosecoat Field" (because the fugitives flung off their coats for greater speed), between Edward IV. and the Lancastrians under Sir Ro-bert Welles and Sir Thomas de la Launde, both of whom were after-wards executed in Stamford. The records of their attainder state that the battle was fought in "Horn-field, in Empingham.' The village of Horne, which lay to the l., has utterly disappeared, church and all.

At 8 m from Stamford we reach *Stretton* (see Rte. 3).

ROUTE 5.

STAMFORD TO ESSENDINE (RAIL). (RYHALL.)

This short line connects Stamford with the Great Northern Railway from London to York. The only intervening station is at

3 m. *Ryhall*, where the *church* is interesting. The greater portion is E. Eng., with a fine tower and spire of the same date. The stair-turret is set on at the angle, like a great buttress. The belfry-lights in the uppermost stage are enriched with dog-tooth, as are the lights of the broach-spire. The E. Eng. nave arcade has circular piers, with lofty arches. (At the point of intersection of the westernmost arches, N. side, is a curious grotesque—a crouching figure with the arms broken off; round the head is a coronet of fleur-de-lys.) The windows of aisles and of the clerestory are now Perp. The wide chancel arch is E. Eng.; the chancel windows Perp. The font is E. Eng. In the chancel is a pretty monument "to the happy memory of Samuel Barker, a child of admirable sweetness of temper, of an erect and comely body, of a most pregnant wit, even beyond what could be imagined at the age of 2 years and 15 days. Died Oct. 30, 1696." *Outside* the church remark the fine buttresses, and a Perp. cornice with grotesques, like that at Oakham. There is a rich S. porch, of which the outer portal has a foliated "bordering." Above is a parvise. This porch, with the aisles and chancel, are clearly rebuildings or additions of the early Perp. period; at which time Oakham church (Rte. 1) was also much altered.

At the W. end of the N. aisle some traces were formerly pointed out as having been part of the cell of St. Tibba, a kinswoman of Peada of Mercia, who died circa 690. The "cell" must be consigned to the same region of conjecture as the "oratory" of Peada at Tickencote (Rte. 4), and as the "stout knight Harding of Ryall," who, according to the false Ingulf, led the Stamford men against the Danes in 870; but St. Tibba was especially reverenced at Ryhall. She is not the same as St. Ebba, the virgin-saint of Northumbria; but, according to local tradition, lived and died in her cell at Ryhall. Her relics were, it is said, afterwards carried to Peterborough. She was the patroness of falconers, and "this Tibb (saith John Ross) hath this special bountie, that if your hawke were ravinishe, or had soared from you, you might, by offering of a hawke in wax, or some other present, reclayme or recover him." (*Wright's* 'Rutland.'). The hunter's cry, "Tantivy," has been explained as an invocation of St. Tibba—like "tawdry" from St. Audrey; but this is more than doubtful. Traditions of her still linger at Ryhall, where it is said that she was a queen, and that she used to bathe in "Tibbal's-hill spring."

At 1½ m. from Ryhall the station of *Essendine* is reached. There was at this place a castle, of which the surrounding moat remains. The place was granted to Gilbert of Ghent after the Conquest, who may have raised the castle. Within the moat stands the small *church*, uninteresting but for its S. door, which is Norman. There is an enclosing arch, with zigzag. The actual portal is rudely squared, and the sides and tympanum have been covered with ornament. The sculpture of the sides can hardly be distinguished. In the tympanum is the Saviour, beneath a rainbow, with adoring angels.

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BERRY'S (late ROBERT'S)

English and French Boarding Establishment and Family Hotel,

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OPPOSITE the Casino Bathing Establishment, near the Steam Packets and Railway Station, and having a splendid Sea View from the extensive Gardens of the Hotel. Terms moderate, and special arrangements for the Winter Season, by day, week, or month. Single Boarders received. Established 50 years.

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On the Neuen Gartenzeilstrasse. First-Class Hotel. Open all the year.

THIS HOTEL, situated next to the City Park, and only four minutes from all the Mineral Springs, commands a splendid view of the Mountains; is recommended to families and travellers in general. Large Dining Rooms and shady Garden. Good German and French Cooking. Moderate Charges.

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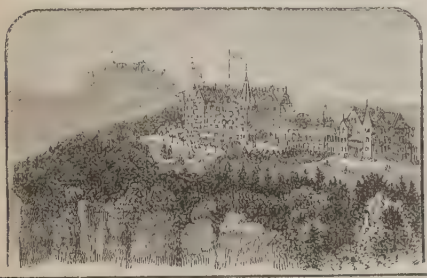

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The Omnibuses of the Hotel meet all Trains. Baths. Interpreters.

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Rooms from 2 florins a day.

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P. WIRTZ, Proprietor.

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RENOWNED FIRST-CLASS HOUSE, patronized by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and by most of the Imperial and Royal Families of Europe. Splendid situation, overlooking the Alster-Bassin. 180 Rooms and Apartments. Elegant Reading and Smoking-Rooms. Baths. Lift. Table d'Hôte. BRETTSCHNEIDER & BANDLI, Proprietors.

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FIRST-CLASS HOTEL in every respect. Exceedingly well Situated. Beautiful Veranda and large Garden at the back of the House. Advantageous arrangements made with families intending a longer stay. Highly recommended.

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Three Minutes' from the Station. This Hotel, beautifully situated on the Bismarck Square, Two Minutes from the new Neckar Bridge, is well known for its good keeping and very moderate prices.

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FIRST-CLASS, in the centre of the town, near the Cathedral and all the curiosities, to which latter the Hotel itself, with its old wood-carvings, belongs in the first place. Garden adjoining the house. Omnibus at the Railway Station. *Old German Beer-room. newly opened.* ENGLISH SPOKEN. CARL WESEMANN, Proprietor.

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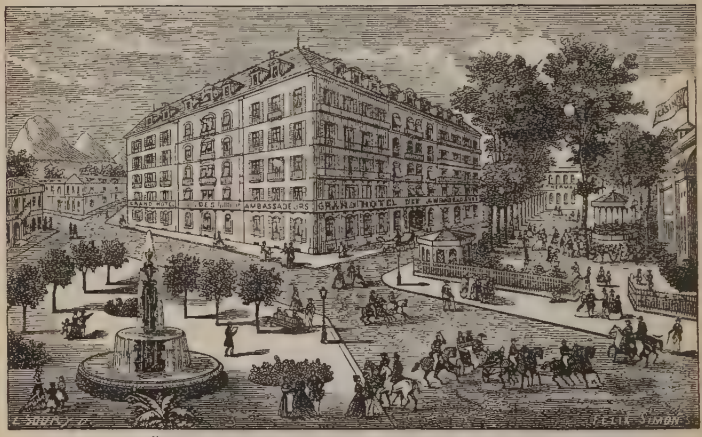

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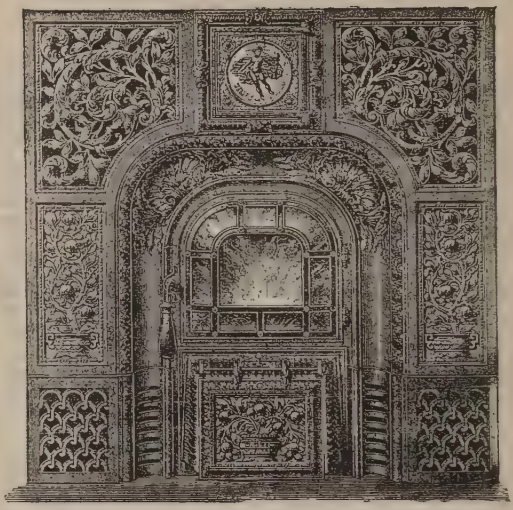

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